

The Middlebury Campus

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Thursday, April 8, 2010

Since 1905

Officials apologize for housing errors

By Kathryn DeSutter
STAFF WRITER

College officials have apologized following a significant computing error by Library and Information Services (LIS) that led rising upperclassmen to receive incorrect room draw lottery numbers on March 31. Administrators also expressed regret this week for ongoing delays in finalizing super block housing assignments, despite recent reassurances that the process would be concluded by the end of Spring Break.

"We recognize that room draw is a significant process for students," Provost and Executive Vice President Alison Byerly acknowledged. "There was a lot of anxiety associated with it, and everyone involved feels very badly that more anxiety was added by virtue of the mistake, but we hope that once people got their real numbers they were able to make their plans accordingly."

Residential Systems Coordinator Karin Hall-Kolts explained that it was not Residential Life that discovered the mistake, but physics student Nate Woods '11.

Woods "sent me a very nice

message which prompted me to sort the numbers and take a look at them in different ways. When I did that, I noticed they didn't seem random to me either," explained Hall-Kolts.

In an e-mail to Hall-Kolts, Woods explained how he had compared his number "with 13 Atwater rising seniors, and we all had numbers in roughly an 80-number range (about 380 to 460, or so). No Atwater students I've talked to had numbers outside this range. Out of about 850 numbers, the chances of this happening are about $(1/10)^{13}$, or about one in ten trillion."

"These numbers strongly suggest an issue with your number assignment algorithm," wrote Woods.

To verify Woods' claim, Hall-Kolts first sorted students by graduation year, and confirmed that seniors had been issued better numbers than juniors, in accordance with standard policy. However, when Hall-Kolts sorted all the numbers from highest to lowest, she "realized [large groups of students] were all in the same Commons and that all of their numbers were relatively close."

SEE HOUSING, PAGE 2

Dining changes to save \$200,000

By Adam Schaffer
STAFF WRITER

In an April 1 e-mail that turned out *not* to be another April Fools joke, Director of Dining Services Matthew Biette announced plans to close the Juice Bar during the academic year and further reduce hours and some offerings at the Grille and MiddXpress.

The McCullough retail operations have been losing money since their inception, and this latest round of cuts aims to reduce those losses.

Chief Financial Officer of the

College Patrick Norton expects Middlebury to save \$200,000 per year with these cuts, with a small operating deficit remaining.

Reduction in staffing levels across the College is one way Old Chapel has been attempting to reduce costs and move towards a "new fiscal reality." Dining Services has eliminated 30 positions through the College's Voluntary Separation Plan since its launch, and five spaces became vacant March 31. These spaces were eliminated from the Grille, Biette wrote in an e-mail.

"We need to look at the way business happens across campus — what services are offered, what should no longer be offered," he wrote. "We need to make the best decisions, concentrate on our key businesses and run all businesses effectively."

In addition to reducing staffing, some menu items will be eliminated, such as the Tuscan Grilled Cheese. Favorites, such as the Love Me Tender and Dr. Feelgood, remain.

Despite reductions in hours and

SEE DINING, PAGE 4



Matthew Kingsbury

GEORGIA ON MY MIND

As the early morning sun rises over Lake Lanier, Ga., the women's varsity crew team takes to the water for upcoming competitions and events. This photo won *The Campus'* Spring Break Photo Contest.

SGA buys two new ellipticals

By Dana Callahan
STAFF WRITER

Two new elliptical machines will soon be purchased for the fitness center. At its April 4 meeting, the Student Government Association (SGA) approved a bill allocating \$10,390.00 to the fitness center to buy the two machines.

The bill, proposed by David Peduto '11, emphasized that SGA funding in the fitness center was necessary due to the center's low operating budget, which has stagnated at \$15,000.00 per year. With such limited funds, in recent years the operating budget has been used to repair old machines rather than purchase new ones. As a result, the elliptical machines currently in place at the fitness center are more than 10 years old.

Noting that students, faculty, and sports teams all use the Fitness Center, Peduto stressed that the fitness center is one of the most used facilities on campus and thus funding the new machines is a decision that, though expensive, will benefit a large percentage of the College

community. Although the use of SGA funds to buy infrastructure is not a regular occurrence — as members of the SGA indicated — it was deemed a cost-effective decision given the current constraints on the fitness center's budget and the high demand for new gym equipment. The machines will be purchased by the end of spring 2010.

On April 4, the SGA also voted in support of a bill that will move Senate elections from the fall to the spring. Under the fall election cycle, the SGA had to wait to resume meeting until after all elections had taken place. In the past, this resulted in the SGA not being able to meet until October and sometimes as late

SEE SGA, PAGE 3

Admissions rates dip to 17.5 percent

By Leah Pickett
STAFF WRITER

On April 11 and 18, the members of the recently admitted Class of 2014 will arrive at Middlebury for Preview Days, having been selected from a pool of applicants 16 percent larger than last year's. The admit rate this year stands at about 17.5 percent, making the Class of 2014, the product of Middlebury's most selective application season process yet. This increased competition allowed admissions to be even more specific in crafting a class.

"Since we admitted this class from the largest pool that Middlebury has ever had," Dean of Admissions Bob Clagett said, "we were able to be even more selective in 'shaping' the class in terms of the intellectual, geographic, socio-economic, racial, extracurricular and all of the other kinds of diversity that we want to have represented in the student body."

Clagett cites the academic programs at Middlebury as a possible

factor in the increase in applications.

"I believe that we are resonating especially deeply for many right now, perhaps because of the increased interest [in] some of Middlebury's historically-strongest programs in languages, environmental studies and international studies," Clagett said.

Applicants showed broad interest in other natural and social science programs as well, Clagett said. The most popular professed interest of the admitted class was biology, followed by international studies, English and environmental studies.

In addition, the elimination of the supplemental application made applying to Middlebury easier and more accessible.

"The new information that we gleaned about the applicant [through the supplemental essay] was pretty marginal, and it had little, if any, impact on our final de-

SEE PREVIEW, PAGE 3



Katie Siegner

APRIL IS THE NICEST MONTH

As temperatures hovered around 80 degrees on the afternoon of Saturday, April 3, students flocked to Lake Dunmore to swim, play volleyball and soccer, grill and, in rare cases, do some class reading.

this week



Tata, ooh la la

The skin care company of the celebs works close to Middlebury, page 5.



Oy vey!

Get to know the culture and customs of Jewish students on campus, page 13.

Bad blood

The theatre department lifts the curtain on this look at life in Chile, page 17.





overseas briefing

by Lorena Espinoza Guerrero '11

I left home for the first time, to go study abroad, when I was 16. Since then I have been moving from place to place, meeting new people, living new experiences, becoming part of new things. Every place is a new adventure, a new challenge, a new culture to understand and become a part of. I keep on being amazed by the human capacity to adapt, no matter how alien the new environment is. I came to study abroad in Rome, Italy, in fall 2009. Two hours after landing, I was left breathless with the view of a huge city that unfolded right in front of my eyes. The sights, the *piazas*, everything was breathtaking. I wondered, could I ever blend in, become a part of it?

I started looking for a place to live, got lost countless times, could not understand the local *romanesco*, felt all in all frustrated. As the days went by, I settled into my new house, started classes, figured out the bus system, but there was still something missing. Rome represents the first time I have paid my own bills, thought about rent money, wondered what to cook for dinner, and realized that if you go to the supermarket to get one thing you really need, that is the one thing you will forget to buy once you are there. After a while, I was happy, but could still not call Rome my city.

I had heard people talk about their "corner bar," which is not necessarily in a corner, and it is the place where you would get your morning cappuccino and croissant, your midday espresso, or the *aperitivo* before dinner. I could not understand the importance of this one bar in the Italian reality. I just wandered around to different bars. One day though, I walked into a bar, three blocks from my house. Something felt different about this place. I kept on coming every morning, until I could recognize the faces of the people that came in at the same time I did. They were all so friendly. The day came when I did not have to order anymore. Gigi (the intimidating-looking bartender) knew exactly how I liked my coffee, and what I liked for breakfast. As time went by, the use of formal Italian stopped, it was so nice to walk into a place and be addressed as one of the locals. During my exam period of the first semester, Gigi figured out the days I had exams (since I would be stressed out and would have a bunch of papers in my hands) and saluted me with a cheerful *in bocca al lupo* — the equivalent for "break a leg." One day, Gigi decided to greet me with a coffee *macchiato* instead of my usual morning cappuccino. Surprised, I looked up to him as if to say, "did you forgot what I drink in the morning?" As a response he simply pointed at the clock and said "Today you are late; a *macchiato* goes down faster." I could not believe it! He had even figured out my schedule! It was at that point when I really felt I belonged.

I believe it takes time to make a place your own. Sometimes we cannot; sometimes we do not realize we have, and we need a seemingly insignificant event to make us see it. In my case, it took a coffee *macchiato*. Every time I go someplace new I feel like I learn and evolve. Every place gives us something, but also takes a piece of us. I can honestly say, even before having to leave Rome, that this has been the place that has taught me the most, the place I fear to leave, the place I will look back at in the future and say *I did it*, and is the place I will dream to come back to.

Housing officials acknowledge confusion

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Hall-Kolts then "verified the information with LIS staff," who confirmed that an error had been made.

"Somehow the commons had played into it to some degree," explained Hall-Kolts. Although commons affiliation is taken into account for first-year and sophomore housing, a 2007 revision of the housing system stripped that affiliation entirely from the upperclassman room draw process — or should have, at any rate.

Dean of Students Gus Jordan admitted that the LIS mistake caused some commons to receive poorer numbers than others. Some commons had numbers spanning the entire class, but other commons had numbers that reflected only higher ranges.

Under normal conditions, said an LIS programmer, the computer algorithm should "assign each student a six-digit random number, then sort [this number] by class and then read through that and assign an [ordinal] number" that marks the rank of the student in the housing draw.

The programming error resulted from the accidental addition of "some other field in the sort process." The staff member declined to comment on the specific nature of the addition.

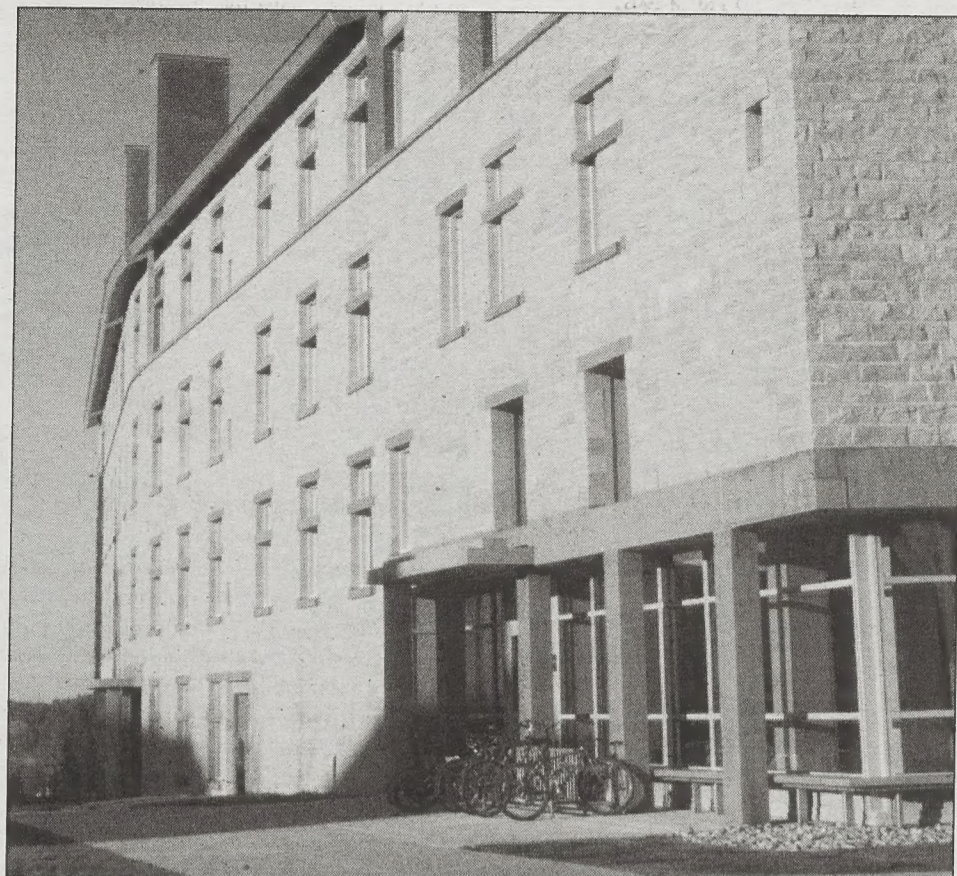
"It's a procedure, and one of the steps in the procedure was wrong — totally unintentionally," said the LIS staff member in a phone interview.

Once the administration had been alerted to the blunder, students received another e-mail on April 1 from Karin Hall-Kolts with the correct lottery numbers. Jordan assured students that LIS "implemented a two-step process so that they could be absolutely certain they were randomized. We certainly didn't want to make another mistake."

Byerly explained that to fix the problem, programmers simply removed upperclassman commons affiliations from the program and ran it again. The numbers are generated based upon a randomized assignment that relies only on verification that students are eligible for housing. The current system does not take into account students' lottery numbers from previous years.

However, before Hall-Kolts could distribute the new numbers, the situation was complicated even further by an April Fools' prank that capitalized on LIS's error. A fake e-mail began circulating among affected students early Thursday morning with the subject line "Room Draw Info — Update" from the address khall.koltz@gmail.com. Although Hall-Kolts' last name was misspelled, the e-mail had the same format as that issued the previous day by the real Hall-Kolts, and included students' full names and class years.

"I heard about the e-mail in a text from a



File Photo

New room numbers will ensure all juniors have an equal chance of getting preferred housing.

friend who was in the library at the time," said Evan Masseau '11. "She had a great number, so I actually biked down to her from Proctor to celebrate. Then, when I checked my number there, mine was also superb, so we were both very excited. The fake number kept me pretty psyched through my Orgo class and on toward lunch, when a friend called me to tell me it was a prank. I was obviously disappointed but extremely impressed with the prankster."

Despite Masseau's feelings that the prank was "well-played," Byerly referred to the prank as "odd" and Jordan called it "unfortunate."

Jordan added that the administration's main concern, apart from any additional frustration the prank may have caused among students, is the "misuse of our information technology system. We reserve our e-mail for official correspondence, and if someone misuses [this system], they are subject to disciplinary action."

Frustration over the distribution of incorrect room draw numbers has been exacerbated by ongoing complications in the super block assignment process. The super block system is currently "on hold," according to Jordan, in anticipation of new housing open-

ings that "may impact the appropriate location of the super block groups." Converting buildings into dorms has been both expensive and complex, Jordan explained. All members of super blocks were issued random room draw numbers.

At press time, the Office of Residential Life still had not provided super block applicants with confirmation of their housing status.

Ty Carleton '12, the leader of the Com-

Everyone involved feels very badly that more anxiety was added.

— Alison Byerly

parative Music super block, expressed concern and frustration with the super block process's inconclusiveness. In early March, Residential Life offered Fletcher House to Comparative Music, yet upon submitting a full roster and being told that contracts were forthcoming, Carleton says he had not heard anything. Two separate requests for contracts and information resulted in, first, a general e-mail sent to all super block leaders explaining that the process had been put on hold, and finally, "a very vague reply" that mentioned "problems with some of the super block assignments."

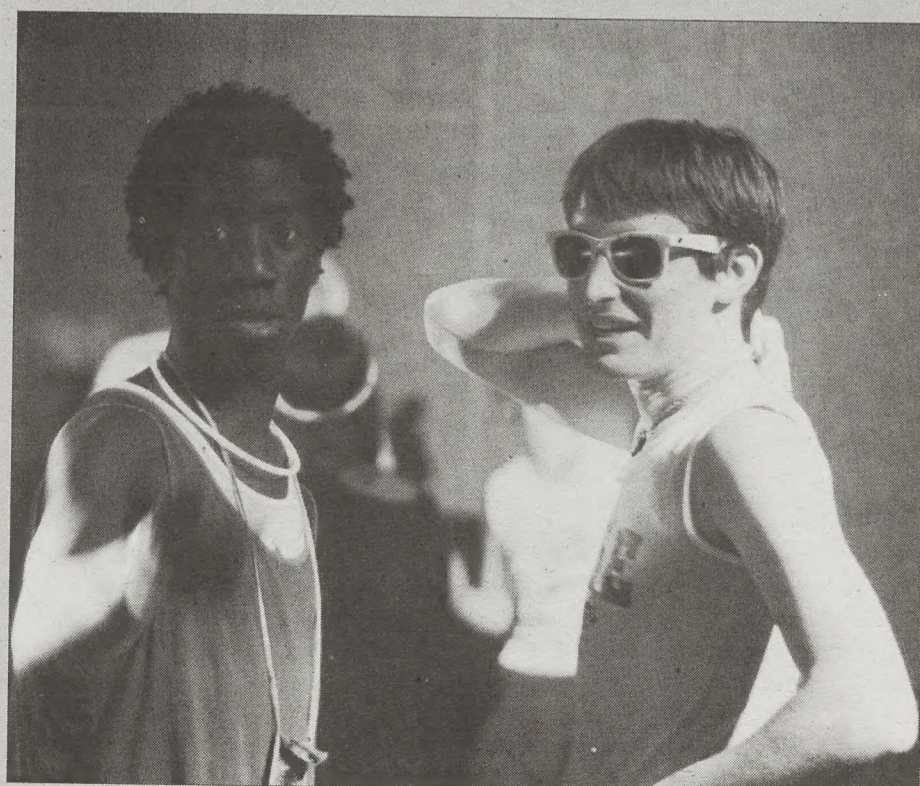
"I don't want to lay blame," wrote Carleton in an e-mail. "I don't understand the intricacies of this surely daunting task of securing housing for an entire student body, and I'm sure Lee Zerrilla and Karin Hall-Kolts are working as hard as they can under these unfortunate circumstances that are out of their control. However, it would be a huge weight off my shoulders if we could just get these contracts signed, and I look forward to some transparency from the administration in the near future."

Senior Residence Director Lee Zerrilla offered no deadline for an announcement, but assured students that finalized super block information would be provided "before room draw," with the hope of allowing students adequate time to think about their housing plans. Room draw for rising juniors and seniors is scheduled to begin with large block applications on April 22.

The latest announcement came just weeks after Jordan wrote an e-mail to students expressing his "hope to have the decisions made by the time students return from spring break."

Zerrilla also echoed regret over the delays in announcements.

"It's unfortunate that I don't have more information," said Zerrilla in a phone interview on Tuesday.



John Kim

DANCE FOR LIFE

Students pose at the Bunker on April 2 at the kickoff for this year's Relay for Life events.

SGA replaces 10-year-old ellipticals

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

as after Thanksgiving. The SGA voted unanimously to move the elections to the spring to provide ample time for newly elected Senators to become familiar with Senate operations and to allow all Senate members to use the summer months to plan and prepare for the upcoming year.

SGA Speaker of the Senate Ethan Schmertzler '12 emphasized this point, noting: "This bill allows the SGA to better serve the community by eliminating the Senate's operational dead period during the beginning of the school year. Also, it means that

the Senate will have five months in advance of their first session to plan, coordinate, and prepare for the coming year."

As a result of the new election schedule, first-years will no longer be eligible to be Commons senators. Some SGA members initially voiced concerns over this decision, worrying that first-years would be highly opposed to exclusion from Commons senatorial elections.

Schmertzler, who was a first-year Commons senator, supported the bill after much deliberation. "The point to take away is that thoughtful deliberation took place, with particular emphasis on how the bill would affect

future [first-year] classes," said Schmertzler. "It was decided that by the nature of a Commons senator's role in the SGA, no part of our community was being disenfranchised by changing their date of election. Even having started my time in the SGA as the Atwater Senator my freshman year, I still felt that the bill made sense and was right. Importantly, the first-year senators agreed with this perspective."

Presidential elections will be held from April 15 to 16, presidential runoff elections (if needed) from April 22 to April 23, and Senate elections from April 29 to April 30. First-year class elections will still be held in the fall.

Preview Days showcase campus life

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cisions," Clagett said.

The additional staff needed to read all the extra essays and the time spent on this aspect of the application also made the essay relatively time- and cost-ineffective. The deliberative process behind admissions is already intensive, occupying a full-time admissions staff of 17, several part-time readers and staff assistants, and five faculty members from November until the end of March.

About 350 to 400 students and their parents are expected to attend Preview Days on April 11-12 and 18-19 this year, and the program for Preview Days will be quite similar to that from last year. Students will hear talks by Clagett and President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz as well as having the opportunity to attend panels on Feb integration and student/faculty research, among others. The financial aid office has organized a Q&A session as well as one-on-one sessions with families concerned about their aid packages.

Prospective students will have the opportunity to stay overnight with Middlebury students with the number of prospective students able to do so depending on the number of students who volunteer to host. The most popular aspect of the Preview Days, according to Admissions Counselor Chrissy Fulton, is the ability to sit in on classes.

The professed goal of Preview Days is to allow admitted students a glimpse into Middlebury life, including classes, food, dorms, and the people.

"We want to help our prospective students picture themselves living and learning on this campus for the next four years," Fulton said. "We want to help them test out the match to see how it fits. The Admissions Committee has spent the last three months poring over the almost 8,000 applicants to pick out students who we believe would thrive on our campus and contribute in so many ways; Preview Days turn the table and allow those same students to evaluate Middlebury and the offerings here."

Get to know your prospies

- 986 800s on SAT sections
- 4 professional actors
- 1 steer wrestler
- 443 team captains
- 50 states
- 80 percent non-New England
- 1 barrel racer
- 4 Wyomingites
- 150 Californians
- 2 Teen Jeopardy finalists
- 38 Texans
- 10 Alaskans
- 1 llama showman
- 1 national snowboarding champion
- 49 nations represented
- 2 *NY Daily News* columnists
- 9 oboe players
- 82 class presidents

Middbrief

Bike shop re-opens for spring

by Cloe Shasha, Staff Writer

Starting the week after Spring Break, the Middlebury College Bike Shop reopened for the first time since the fall, and will remain open through finals period. The space for the shop, which first opened in 2007, is located in the basement of Adirondack House, with its entrance facing Ross Dining Hall. The shop has a total of four full-time employees: Bike Shop Manager Chris DiOrio '12, Assistant Manager Roman Mardoyan-Smyth '11, and mechanics Jesse Gubb '10 and Ian Durkin '10.5. These four students, with the help of substitute mechanics, spent several weeks getting the space ready for the second half of spring term.

"We reorganized the shop and cleaned up a lot," DiOrio said. "And this semester, we're starting a rental bike program."

The rental bike program was funded by a grant from the Environmental Council. DiOrio and Mardoyan-Smyth plan on renting over 20 bikes to students for a price of 25 dollars per semester. Many of these bikes were old and salvaged to be rebuilt for this purpose.

DiOrio and Mardoyan-Smyth are looking forward to providing this opportunity for students. They want to encourage people to use bikes instead of cars, and to enjoy them. They may even start a day rental program, depending on the demand.

"We're going to have people sign a rental contract that is hooked up to BannerWeb," DiOrio continued. "So if people mess up bikes or don't bring them back we can keep track of them. We don't know if we're going to be giving them locks or not, but we will charge them for the cost of replacing the bike if they lose it."

Starting this week, the Bike Shop will introduce another new feature: bicycle registration. The managers coordinated with the Department of Public Safety to register bicycles in the same way that it is done at Public Safety Office. On Friday, April 9, the

Bike Shop will be hosting a welcoming event for students from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., where the managers and mechanics will provide the means to register students' bicycles.

Mardoyan-Smyth hopes that the bike rental program and the ability to register bicycles will bring more students into the Bike Shop.

"I hope to see people here all the time, especially people who don't have bikes and want to build up new bikes," he said. "Our primary purpose here at the Bike Shop is to help people who have problems fixing their bikes so that they can learn how to do it themselves. Once they learn to fix their bikes, they have that skill for life, which is great."

The Bike Shop focuses on sustainability by reusing any and all bike parts for future bicycle reconstructions. Every spring when the Bike Shop reopens, the managers bring out the bicycles that people were working on in the fall and ask those students if they plan

to continue building their bicycles. If they are interested, the bicycles are reserved for them, and if they are not, the managers and mechanics put the bicycles back into circulation.

One Bike Shop regular, Edwin Suh '12, says that he spends a lot of time working on his bicycle in the Bike Shop because it is the greatest place to be.

"I get to be productive by working on my bike, and I enjoy the company," Suh said. "I actually got this bike here, and it was once a piece of scrap. Now I ride it around, and it rides better than most bikes on campus."

Suh thinks that there are not enough people who know about the Bike Shop. Like Mardoyan-Smyth, he hopes that more students will use the space after the welcoming event kickoff.

This spring, the Bike Shop will be open on Fridays and Saturdays from 4 to 8 p.m., and eventually on Thursdays from 4 to 8 p.m.



Cloe Shasha

The bike shop's managers mingle with visitors during the shop's first week open this year.

college shorts

By Jaime Fuller, News Editor

UCLA celebrates "the Dude" at Lebowski Fest

A man dressed as Jesus swilling White Russians and bowling strikes was not out of place in Los Angeles on April 2-3, at the Annual Lebowski Fest. The festival celebrates the 1998 cult film "The Big Lebowski."

The festival started in Louisville, Kent. in 2002, and has since expanded all over the United States and Great Britain, including the event held at UCLA.

The weekend is filled with trivia contests, costumes, and of course, White Russians, which is the drink of choice of the main character in the film, "the Dude."

Lebowski Fest has been featured in *The New York Times* and *Playboy* magazine, but has altered little from the small event for friends that began eight years ago.

"It's basically the exact same event that we started with," said Will Russell, one of the co-founders. "All of it is pretty much an inside joke. That's the fun of it. We all get it, and we're all into it."

—Daily Bruin

Colleges offer students some unusual courses

Although fulfilling requirements takes up the bulk of a college student's time, some colleges offer some alternative electives that draw the interest of students on campus, as well as the national media.

Reed College offers the bizarre "Underwater Basket Weaving" as part of the non-credit Paideia Festival of Learning, and two other colleges offer similar courses. Cornell University also has an interesting outdoors course — Tree Climbing — for physical education credit, and Centre College had a Modern Language course titled "The Art of Walking," which encourages students to ponder Immanuel Kant's work while walking through nature preserves, battlefields and cemeteries.

Other quirky courses include Georgetown University's "Philosophy and Star Trek," Frostburg State University's "The Science of Harry Potter," Stanford University's "iPhone Application Programming" and Alfred University's "Maple Syrup, The Real Thing."

—Huffington Post

UVM questions concept of academic objectivity

Students and faculty at the University of Vermont are examining academic objectivity and whether it is essential in the classroom.

Professor of Geography Pablo Bose said, "I don't believe in the idea of objectivity. I don't think that you can remove your own perspective on something."

However, he added that providing more than one framework with which to analyze information is necessary.

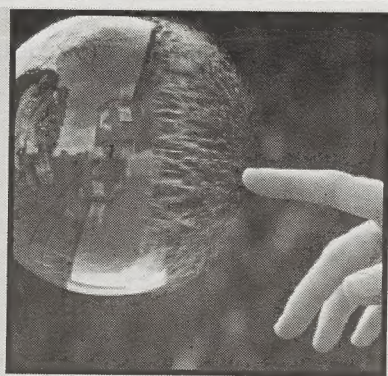
"Classrooms should be spaces where there are multiple perspectives that are entertained and debated and discussed."

Despite the inherent opinions in his lectures and the lectures of his colleagues, he insisted that they are not "trying to form a revolution or something."

Students notice that many of their professors lean liberal, but they see this as a function of where they decided to go to school. Senior Jae Vick does not see professional opinions as a problem.

"I think it's impossible [to be objective]," she said. "I think that if you're trying to be or pretending to be, that it's more dishonest than saying, 'I have a bias.'"

—The Vermont Cynic



beyond the bubble

by Bronwyn Oatley, Staff Writer

Have you ever heard of the term auto-cannibalism? It refers to a practice that militiamen use in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) where they cut off pieces of the flesh of victims and force them to eat it. What about re-rape? This one seems a little easier to interpret. This is a term used by doctors in the Congo to describe women who have been raped, re-raped, and re-raped again. Besides this new vocabulary of horror, there are also reports of toddlers being thrown into fires, and women being mutilated by machetes as they are repeatedly gang-raped.

While I am loath to open an article by listing atrocities, it seems that in a conflict of this magnitude, to do anything less would be a grave injustice. In the past decade it is estimated that nearly 5 million people have died in the Congo. This number represents the most deaths in any crisis since World War II. More people have perished in the DRC in the last decade than in the Iraq, Afghanistan and Darfur conflicts combined.

And the fighting continues. Though the United Nations has its largest mission stationed in the in the DRC at present, many in the international community have argued that practices have been largely ineffective. Since 1999 the United Nations Missions in Congo (MONUC) has been operating under a Chapter 7 UN mandate that authorizes the use of UN force, yet the progress made has been nominal. A prominent Canadian newspaper notes, "There have been gains in Congo in recent years, including a new constitution and democratic elections. But the mineral-rich nation remains driven by faction and outside influence."

While fighting in the region can be traced back over the last century, much of the animosity stems from developments that occurred in the last decade. In 1994 the genocide in Rwanda caused a massive influx of refugees into the DRC. Since then, foreign-backed rebels, the Congolese army, and domestic militias have fought each other for territorial control.

Exacerbating the conflict further is the region's natural abundance of gold, diamonds, tin and copper. The struggle to claim these precious minerals has resulted in an underground economy that has fueled fighting for the past 10 years.

So why the apathy on the part of the international community? Why no influx of foreign aid money as was seen in the UN interventions in Kosovo or Bosnia, or more recently, in Haiti? Why is "Africa's world war" being largely ignored by the international community?

Is it because natural disasters are more immediate, and produce a more "imminent threat" that has upset the stability of a region? When a conflict has persisted for more than a decade does the international community view it as a "lost cause"?

Or is it that the geopolitical interests of the region are not strong enough to compel action? Though rich in minerals, the nation lacks the oil of Iraq, or the political centrality of a Bosnia or Kosovo.

Or maybe it is racial? While a difficult factor to acknowledge, "Western" audiences have been proven to give more to nations where the population is white. Has there been a failure on the part of the media to present photos ops compelling enough to encourage individuals to open up their wallets?

Dining reduces McCullough operations

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the entire operation of the Juice Bar, however, the Juice Bar will continue to act as a meeting space, and will open weekday mornings at 8 a.m.

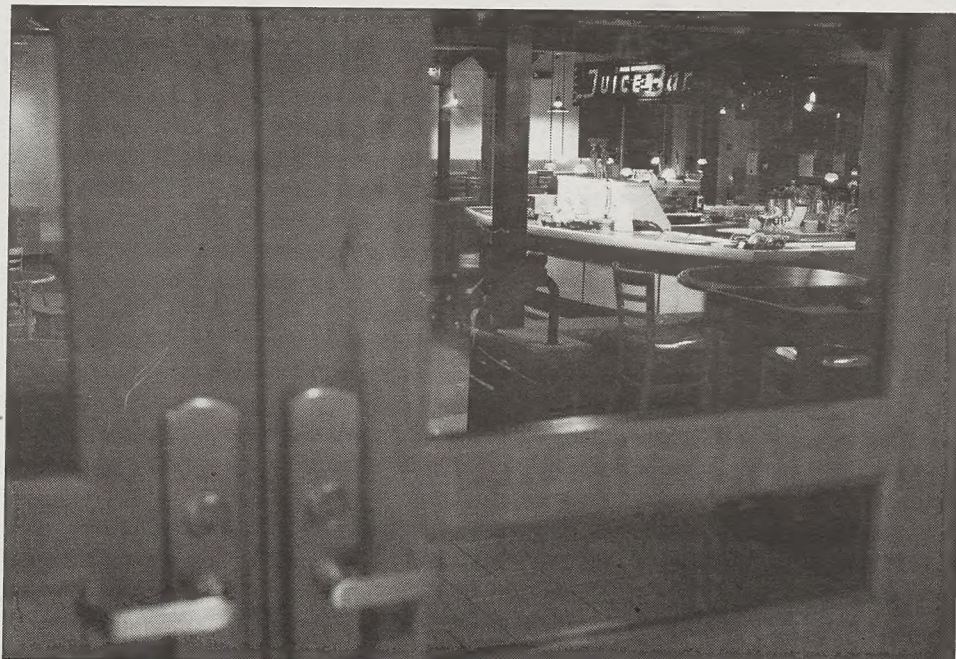
Though the Juice Bar will be closed for regular services, it will reopen for special events and summer Language Schools.

Few students seem disappointed by the cuts, as many use the Grille only during the evening hours when it will remain open.

As for the Juice Bar, some see it as more of an overlap to the Wilson Library Café than a necessary individual entity.

"The only reason I'd go to the Juice Bar would be to get coffee, so you can get that at the dining hall or the library," said Claire McIlvennie '12. "[What's important is that] The Grille is still open, and I'd rather they closed the Juice Bar than take something else away."

Biette expects this latest round of cuts to end the major changes to the hours and services in McCullough "for the time being."



Nicholas Sohl / Photos Editor

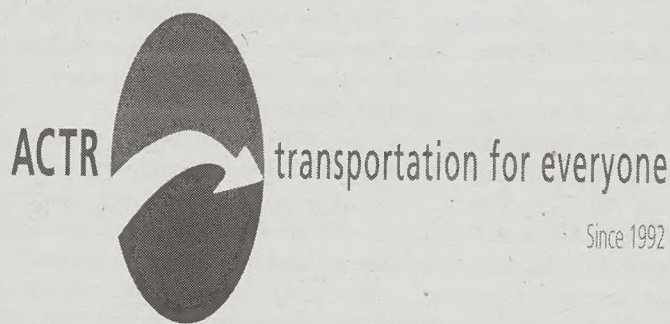
Though the Juice Bar will be closed for regular services, it will reopen for special events.

public safety log

March 27 - April 5, 2010

DATE	TIME	INCIDENT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
3/27/2010	12:55 a.m.	Fire alarm	General cooking	Gifford	Referred to Commons Dean
3/27/2010	11:06 p.m.	Drug violation	Possession	Hadley	Referred to Commons Dean
3/28/2010	2:56 a.m.	Vandalism	—	Prescott	Referred to Commons Dean
3/28/2010	2:31 a.m.	Agency assist	MPD	Off campus	Referred to Commons Dean
3/30/2010	11:17 p.m.	Fire alarm	Burnt food	Gifford	Referred to Commons Dean
3/31/2010	9:08 p.m.	Fire alarm	General cooking	Gifford	Referred to Commons Dean
4/1/2010	—	Vandalism	Window	Warner	No suspects
4/2/2010	1:58 a.m.	Vandalism	Door opener	McCullough	No suspects
4/2/2010	12:42 a.m.	Disturbance	Noise	Hepburn	Referred to Commons Dean
4/2/2010	12:20 a.m.	Vandalism	Vending machine/toilet seat	Hadley	Open
4/3/2010	5:30 p.m.	Suspicious circumstances	Attempted luring	Route 125	Referred to DOC and Commons Dean

The Department of Public Safety reported giving five alcohol citations between March 27 and April 5.



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Local company promotes natural beauty

BY CHARLOTTE GARDINER, STAFF WRITER

A native Colombian, Tata Harper grew up in a natural environment that emphasized beauty and the way that women care for themselves. As a little girl, Harper made bath salts, face masks and hair concoctions with her grandmother.

Six years ago, Harper brought this long-fostered appreciation for natural beauty products to New England, when she and her husband Henri bought 1,200 acres in Vermont. They are now permanent residents of Shoreham, where they live with their 17-month- and 4-week-old babies.



Courtesy

Tata Harper began experimenting with beauty products with as a child in Colombia.

"We wanted a truly rural landscape," said Harper. "My husband and I love land and animals, and Vermont met all of our needs; it is fresh and natural, like Colombia."

A self-described beauty junkie, Harper has used a variety of skin-care products throughout her life. About six years ago, Harper's friends informed her about the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics and its partnership with the Environmental Working Group. The campaign produces a skin care database that details the concentration and toxicity levels of personal care products currently being sold on the market. The database is an effective resource for consumers and environmental researchers alike, but many don't take advantage of the available information, unaware of how their skincare regime might take its toll.

"No one ever believes their \$400 bottle of skin lotion is toxic," said Harper. "People need to take personal responsibility and break down the labels on their products, so they can understand the harmful effects of the active ingredients."

Harper was shocked when she saw what she was actually putting on her face.

"I asked myself, 'What are we supposed to do?'" she said. "I decided that I would begin an all-natural skin-care line as my contribution to the cause."

After years of research and travel, Harper's vision is now beginning to take form. She launched her idea on an international scale, visiting Italy, Spain, England and France, to speak with chemists about the possibility of an all-natural skin-care line. Critics repeatedly advised Harper that it was impossible to make a synthetic-free product that was both healthy and effective. Furthermore, she struggled to develop a product that women would enjoy using on a daily basis.

"I wanted something with a luxurious feel and smell, as well [as natural]," she said.

Finally, Harper struck gold. With help from European chemists, botanists and aroma therapists, she developed 12 skin-care products. The line, which can be purchased online or through Tata's individual sellers, called ambassadors, is 100 percent natural.

This is thanks to the collaboration between Harper and the chemists, who tested different combinations of ingredients for their desired outcome. The resulting group of creams and lotions promise a safer substitute for traditional beauty products.

"Women need safe alternatives that won't make them sick," said Harper. "There are no long-term repercussions with my products; they simply spread healthy energy."

Harper's mission to promote a natural alternative has been further inspired by the reality of food and drug laws in the United States. Her travels in Europe have made her question the effectiveness of the American system, as compared to European administration.

The European Union relies on two separate bodies to monitor organic activity, one for food and one specifically designated to personal care. In contrast, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is the sole overseeing body for both categories. Personal care falls under USDA domain because the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) does not require companies to report the contents of their products prior to market release. Harper argues that this difference has a resounding affect on consumer health, citing disparities in toxin regulation. About 1,100 toxins have been outlawed in European skin products due to health concerns, while just nine of these ingredients are currently banned in the United States. The Environmental Working Group claims that the FDA has not tested 89 percent of the ingredients in our personal products.

"The FDA is reactive, not proactive," said Blake Perlman, an associate of Harper's. "People don't realize that their skin absorbs these skin-care products; we aren't protected and many toxins con-

tained in personal care products may freely enter the bloodstream and negatively affect our health, especially subsequent to prolonged use."

Perlman points to the toxins in these products as a primary reason why many Americans get sick. While companies claim to be environmentally friendly, Perlman questions the validity of such claims.

"And we wonder why so many women are getting cancer?" mused Harper.

Harper and her company are not the only individuals concerned about toxin regulation. Recent trade shows for natural products have mobilized to raise awareness and people in the entertainment industry are getting involved as well. In 1976, Congress passed an act for personal toxin use, and Harper's company, with others, is pushing for the enactment of a revised law.

Harper is leading by example. Sixty different active ingredients are found in Harper's products, and 12 of these are grown on her farm in Whiting. Other actives are extracted from plants in places including Israel, Japan, the Amazon and the Czech Republic, and then are shipped to the farm's lab.

Harper makes all of her products in her lab in Shoreham. Her lab, which was formerly the milk house on the original farm property, has the necessary equipment and technology, including a refrigeration unit, to produce her line. With new actives shipped to Harper each month, all of her products



TM

TATA HARPER

A fresh start in Skin Care

Courtesy

Tata Harper's logo reflects the creator's love of nature, a love that brought her to Vermont.

are made fresh and as they are needed.

Harper promotes her product and her mission through education.

"It is important to educate women," she said. "We must learn how to distinguish between the harmful and the all-natural products."

In an effort to raise awareness, Harper is traveling throughout the U.S., from Miami to Los Angeles to the Hamptons, giving lectures and hosting events. She wants her customers to experience her products and to gain valuable knowledge about alternative ways to lead a natural life.

Harper hopes to make this lifestyle as convenient as possible, pursuing the development of a wellness line in addition to her skincare products. Working with clinical aroma therapists, she has explored products aimed to curb mood disorders, including stress, anxiety, irritability and insomnia.

Harper hopes to open stores in Madrid and Colombia, as well as building up an expanded U.S. base. She is considering distribution in the SoHo neighborhood of New York City, and in Los Angeles.

The skin-care products are sold in glass bottles, as Harper uses only green packaging for her line. The paper labels and printed ink are also all natural. Harper regrets that she has yet to find a "green" pump for her skin creams, but knows that other companies have one in the works.

"My favorite product is the replenishing nutrient complex; it has a great smell," said Perlman. For herself, Harper favors the rejuvenating serum. This may change as the company continues to innovate.

"Eventually I want to expand and create products for babies, teens and pregnant women," said Harper. "For now, my mission is to spread wellness and beauty through all-natural means."



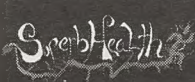
Courtesy

Tata Harper's 100 percent natural skin-care line consists of 12 products, all Vermont-made.



Courtesy

The Shoreham, Vt.-based company is operated out of a redesigned milkhouse.



Meet an online wellness guru

Nick Lynch is a personal trainer who wanted to expand his client-base into the Internet, page 6.

Discover local treasures

The Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History gives wall space to Addison County's greatest stories, page 7.



Local Wanders



by Timothy O'Grady

The Champlain Valley and nearby Green Mountains offer students endless possibilities to explore the natural beauty of Vermont. If you're thinking that you have to scale Mount Mansfield to get a glimpse of the state's natural beauty, think again. The Middlebury area has plenty of sites of geologic and biological importance that can be accessed easily from your car. Whether you're an urbanite who considers walking up stairs rather than taking the elevator exercise or a Vermonter who prefers to stay indoors, consider these less arduous options when you feel like connecting with nature.

Texas Falls Recreation Area

Located just five minutes east of the Snow Bowl on Route 125 East is Texas Falls Recreation Area, home to a series of stunning cascades on the Hancock Branch of the White River. The recreation area is pretty built up and features a gentle nature trail around the brook, an outlook area to observe the falls and a nearby picnic area ideal for weekend outings. Due to a series of injuries, swimming is prohibited in the cascades and pools at Texas Falls.

Though the falls themselves are not as impressive as Niagara, the sheer beauty of the surrounding area makes Texas Falls one of the most picturesque nature sites in the Green Mountains. A perpetual balmy mist wafts from the rushing emerald-tinted water. Viewing the falls never gets old because every viewpoint offers visitors a new scene. I recommend sitting on the rock outcroppings if you want a closer seat to view this spectacle put on by Mother Nature.

This summer will begin a reconstruction project to build a trail foot bridge that will connect the banks of the river and offer another lookout area for visitors directly above the river.

According to one man visiting the Falls, the river flooded so badly last year that the water surge tore down the previous bridge. Nevertheless, Texas Falls Recreation Area is a geologically stunning site that is perfect for those seeking an outdoorsy adventure without the added effort. Instead of a backpack, bring along a camera and lunch and enjoy an afternoon of leisure by the falls.

Swamp Wildlife Manangement Area

The Cornwall Swamp Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is one part of a seven-swamp system that runs along Otter Creek. Covering 1,566 acres, this site is often cited as the most biologically diverse swamp in New England. The area is home to more than 43 bird species, unique marshland plants like the swamp fly-honeysuckle, and a plethora of mammals such as otters and muskrats. There is a small fishing access area and a parking lot located on Swamp Road, 15 minutes south of Middlebury off of Route 30.

I would recommend this site to those feeling a bit more adventurous due to the limited amenities offered at the Wildlife Management Area and the unpredictable conditions of this fragile ecosystem. When I visited the swamp, water flooded the only accessible road, which made it impossible to pass. The water was so high at one point that visitors were actually kayaking on top of the pavement! Nevertheless, it is certainly an interesting spot to check out if you're secretly an avid ornithologist or just interested in the diverse landscape of the Champlain Valley. If spending the day identifying bird species or kayaking through the marshlands does not sound like your cup of tea, a drive down Swamp Road could still be quite amusing, even if it means turning around once the road turns into a swamp itself!

Tim O'Grady '12 is a geography major from Huntington, N.Y.

Youth take center stage at THT

By Apurva Damani
STAFF WRITER

Local teenagers displayed their talent in the performing arts to a sold-out audience in the Town Hall Theater on Saturday, April 3. The Young Artists Showcase is an annual event, now in its fourth year, which encourages budding artists in Addison County.

The audience, comprised largely of proud parents and supportive friends, witnessed a diverse array of performances. Among them were vocal feats by a soprano and a tenor, and from a sampling of different genres, including opera and a cappella. The showcase also indulged dance aficionados, with ballet, hip hop and tap dances. Performances on the piano, cello, violin and guitar enhanced the repertoire, which was rounded out with an oral monologue.

Middlebury Union Middle School seventh-grader Alexia Hernandez was the youngest performer at the show and played Carl Webster's "Scherzo" on the cello.

"It's really nice that they let kids younger than high school students participate [in the show]," said Hernandez, who has been playing the cello for eight years.

Seventeen-year old Jess Wolvington from Burlington High School and 18-year old Caney Demars from People's Academy agreed with the value of youth performance. The high school students have undergone professional voice training for opera since the eighth grade under the guidance of their teacher, Bill Reed.

"I think it's great for the kids, for the community spirit, and for all the parents to see their kids up there being capable and competent young artists," said Reed, who has been instructing in vocal music for over 40 years.

"Bill has been shaping us since we were puppies, as he says," said Demars.

"He expects professionalism from us," added Wolvington.

The duet sang "Ah Guarda Sorella" from "Cosi Fan Tutte" by Mozart.

"I think they're really fun," said Demars, referring to opportunities like Saturday's talent show. "We don't usually get a place to show our talents and schools don't offer [opportunities] like that. Besides, we get to meet these kids that we've never seen, doing stuff and we weren't

even aware other people could do the same things."

"It's cool to see other schools' kids too," said Wolvington. "Here [you get to see] other Vermont kids."

Brady Winslow and Ethan Roy, both eleventh-grade students from Middlebury Union High School, performed Blue Bossa by Kenny Dorham. The transcendental jazz-fusion guitar duo believes that the show is a great platform for building confidence and giving opportunities to young people who might not have otherwise performed.

"They really exhibited the talent that Addison County has to offer its young people," said Winslow, referring to the other acts.

There are no auditions to participate in the show. Rather, Douglas Anderson, the executive director of the Town Hall Theater, asks teachers from the county to choose their most talented students.

"I can't pick and I also don't want to have this massive audition with 10,000 students," said Anderson. "I send out an e-mail in the fall to all the teachers [asking them] if [they] have a student who really needs this opportunity and has been working very hard. Also, it motivates kids throughout the year. If they know in November they're going to be singing or playing in the Town Hall Theater in April, that's something really to work for."

The show has been a starting point for local performer Tim Woos, who is now entering the realm of national recognition. In the showcase, Woos accompanied Vergennes Union Middle School eighth-grade violin-player Ruby Dombek on the piano, playing the third movement of Bach's "Concerto # 1."

"[Woos] will be on National Public Radio, he's written compositions played by the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, he's a brilliant bassoon player and he's just been accepted to the Curtis Institute," said Anderson, predicting a bright future for Woos. "In 10 years, he'll be a household name."

The talent show has been key to promoting budding talent in the county.

"As long as I can put a seventh-grade cellist on the stage, I'm very happy," said Anderson, who plans to have two shows a year in the future.

one in 8,700

where the personalities of middlebury proper are celebrated

By Lea Calderon-Guthe
LOCAL NEWS EDITOR

Nick Lynch does not look like he plays king to an Internet domain, but the personal fitness trainer owns Superb Health LLC and runs his own wellness Web site, <http://imsuperb.com>. Lynch schedules in-person sessions with clients in Middlebury, but the Web site is a way to offer personalized fitness routines and meal plans based on his holistic wellness ideals to a larger population.

"A one-hour personal training rate can be anywhere from \$30 up to \$200 an hour, and I always charge lower because I want anybody to be able to afford it," said Lynch. "It's not like that everywhere you go — I've worked at gyms where it's \$100 a session, and it's really tough telling people that they really need [a fitness plan] and they can't afford it based on their income. The idea behind the Web site was to make it affordable for anybody. The most you pay is \$15 a month."

Lynch, who moved to Middlebury in August 2009, spent 18 months working on imsuperb.com before it launched in May 2009. He shares the wellness expertise he has developed over the last eight years through the International Sports Science Association and yearly conferences with more than 130 current site members.

A membership to imsuperb.com entails a quick survey to determine a new client's fitness level and what goals he or she has, and then the client can access a personalized daily workout plan and schedule one-on-one chats with Lynch or his two brothers, a chiropractor and a nutritionist, respectively.

"The workouts are all videos, pictures, voice and text descriptions," said Lynch. "It's set up based on your current goals and level, so if you've never worked out a day in your life, you'll start out at a lower level."

Lynch, his brothers and his fiancée, who is a nurse and who also works with Superb Health, filmed the instructional videos using a professional film crew to maximize the quality, and they are currently developing a feature that will allow site members to download the videos to an iPod. Making the videos more accessible fits with Lynch's broader accessibility goals — he wants wellness to be available to everyone, everywhere.

"There aren't too many trainers out



Saila Huusko, Photo Editor

Nick Lynch shows off his fitness Web site, imsuperb.com, where members have access to personalized workout routines, meal plans and chat support.

there willing to charge less," said Lynch. "I am, but I'm only here in Middlebury. I can't also train in California. We just had a client sign up from Switzerland; I can't train in Switzerland, too. [The Web site] lets anybody, anywhere have access to [affordable preventative care]."

Other personal trainers, including a large gym in Milwaukee, Wisc., use imsuperb.com as a supplement for their clients who can only afford a few in-person sessions a week. Lynch, who was born and raised in Montpelier, Vt., spent some time in Milwaukee "to see how they run businesses in a different part of the country," particularly big gyms. Big fitness sent Lynch in search of his own brand of wellness, and he found it by combining exercise and proper nutrition — one of his main interests.

"I've always been an athlete, and I would say at 16 I really started to get into nutrition and realize its effects," said Lynch. "If people are eating horrible food like peanut butter and fluff white bread sandwiches and slugging it down with a protein shake, you notice their energy levels for one and their performance in sports, and you compare that with a whole food, nutrient-dense diet where the performance levels are phenomenal. I started

to notice that certain foods just worked better and were more [energetically] sustainable."

Lynch is still working on the meal plan aspect of the Web site, but for now he and his fiancée are making their own contribution to the world of good nutrition.

"We're going to be at the farmers' markets selling healthy ice cream this summer," said Lynch. "Of course some eyebrows get raised when they hear healthy ice cream, but what it is is we buy strictly grass-fed milk and cream. That's it. And the eggs are from chickens who eat bugs, which is what they're supposed to eat, so they're loaded with all sorts of cholesterol-lowering and fat-burning properties."

When Lynch is not chatting with clients online or meeting with them in person, he can be found shredding on his electric guitar, hiking the TAM or reading 19th century Russian novels. Of course he also makes time for his own exercise routines and the adventure workouts that he leads at his house.

"Even if you don't think you have the time, make the time to take care of your health first," said Lynch. "If you don't, you're not all of a sudden going to start doing it when you're 40 and busier than you are now."

Museum unveils local treasures

By Elizabeth Scarinci
LOCAL NEWS EDITOR

The Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History's newest exhibit features artifacts from ten historical societies in Addison County. "Town Treasures: A Local History Show" is on display through April 17 and contains photographs and mementos, some dating back to the Revolutionary War. This exhibit marks the second time the museum has featured a collection of items from other historical societies in the county.

Education Coordinator of the Sheldon Museum Susan Peden commented that the museum had wanted to organize an exhibit featuring historical societies for years.

"Last year we had this block of time and we said, 'maybe it's time to get the historical societies in,'" she said.

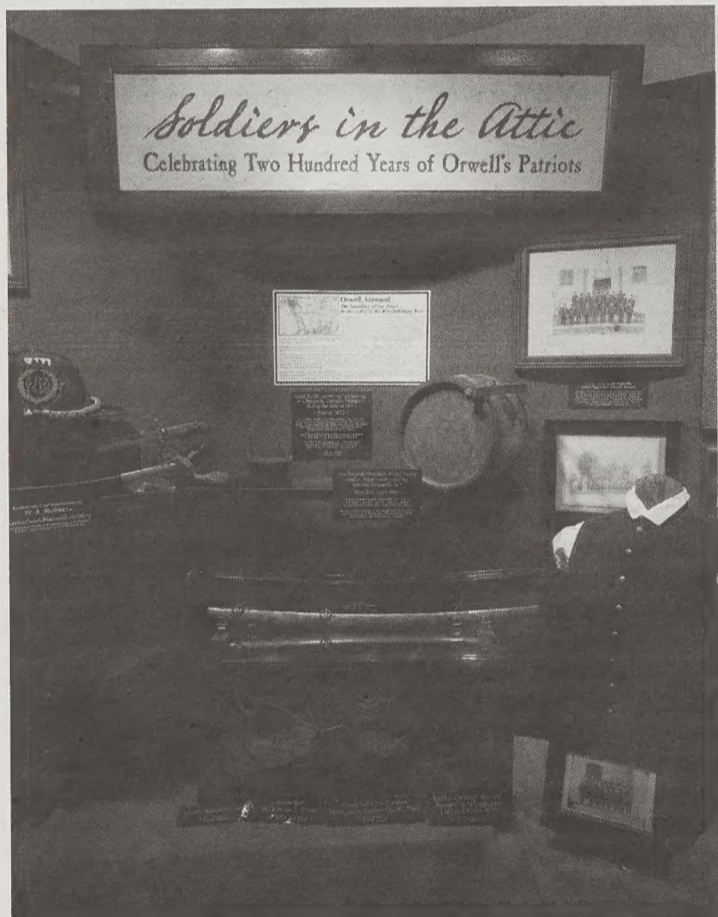
Peden described the exhibit as a great way to build awareness of both the museum and the societies that don't often get to show their material.

"[The exhibit] helps them share what they have and attract new members for them," Peden said.

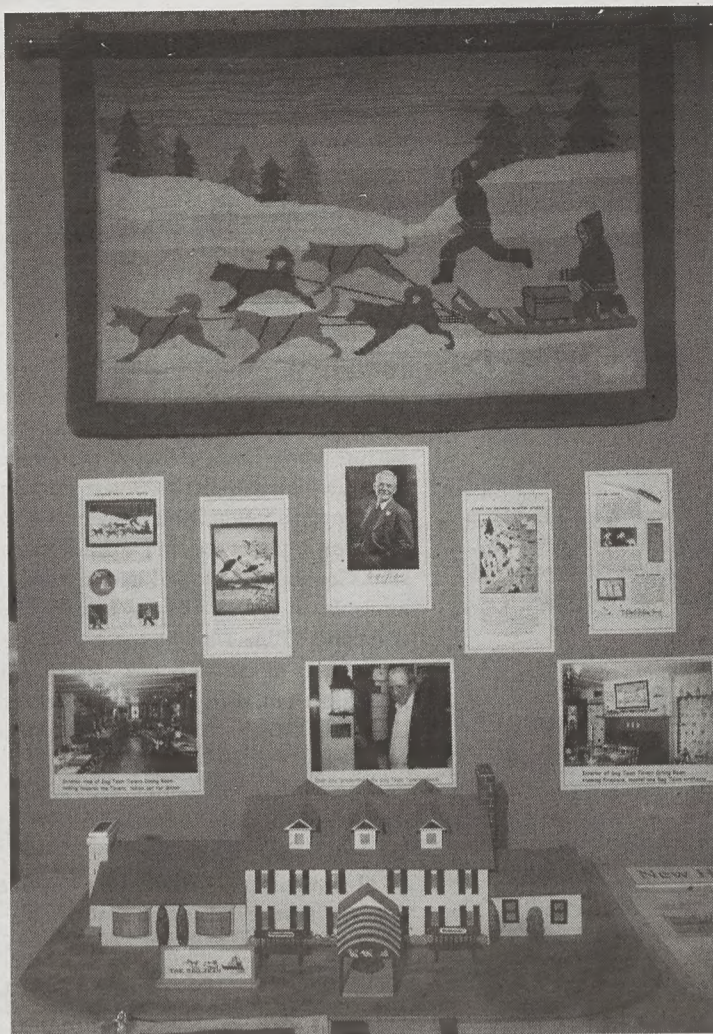
In organizing the exhibit, the Sheldon Museum asked each historical society to bring a display of something that it would like to show the community. Each society was responsible for transporting and setting up its display, but was also allowed to use props such as display cases from the museum.

The exhibit varies from town to town, ranging from profiles of significant people to architecture of particular interest. Bristol profiles author Merritt Parmelee Allen who from 1923 to 1956 published more than 25 books. Allen was frequently published in the magazines *American Boy*, *Youth's Companion*, *St. Nicholas* and *Boys' Life*. He specialized in children's historical novels, and he liked to place his characters on the American frontier.

Middlebury's section of the exhibit features the historic Dog Team Tavern, recounting the story of the tavern from its inception to its end in a 2006 fire. The fire completely destroyed artifacts passed on from Sir Wilfred Grenfell, a doctor and missionary who sold handicrafts from Newfoundland and Labrador. The building was originally a teahouse, run by Grenfell's wife, Lady Anne Grenfell. The tavern's authentic décor was reminiscent of the couple's interaction with native peoples of the far north.



Orwell contributed memorabilia from the Revolutionary War.



The Middlebury exhibit explores the history of the Dog Team Tavern.

Peden said her favorite display was the one from the Orwell Historical Society. Sandy Korda, an Orwell resident, gathered uniforms and artifacts from men who had grown up in Orwell and served in the United States military from the Revolutionary War to Operation Desert Storm. Korda will be speaking on Tuesday, April 13 at the museum about the men of Orwell who have served in the military.

"It is an incredible exhibit of the history of men who served from Orwell," Peden said. "That's probably the coolest thing in the exhibit."

Because the museum usually plans its exhibits a year in advance, Peden and other coordinators are already planning its 2011 exhibit to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War. The exhibit will show artifacts from Vermonters who fought in the Civil War, and in preparation, a volunteer has read all local newspapers from the time period.

"Vermonters were well known for their bravery in battle," Peden said. "It's a great way to celebrate that and bring information to people."

For the exhibit, the museum will draw on the continued collection of Henry Sheldon, a Middlebury businessman who lived in the early to mid-19th century. Sheldon acted as one of the town fathers, holding jobs ranging from village clerk to piano repairman to restaurant owner. He was an avid collector and decided to open a museum in 1884 to show the ordinary objects that he collected.

"He was very much a hands-on historian," Peden said. "He preserved history by preserving the artifacts of people, business records, documents, everything."

Peden and others will display some of the artifacts that Sheldon collected during the Civil War, such as a wooden leg that a Vermonter used upon losing his leg in battle.

Peden commented that according to Sheldon's letters, he hoped that someone would continue his collection. More than 100 years later, the Sheldon Museum organizes several exhibits each year and attracts visitors from every part of Vermont.

Additional reporting by Samantha Hernandez, Staff Writer



The exhibit drew artifacts from the collections of the historical societies around Addison County for the second year in a row.

All photos by Nicholas Sohl, Photo Editor

8 April 2010

7

local lowdown

Poetry reading

April 8, 1 – 3 p.m.

Poet David Weinstock will read at the Ilsely Public Library from his current project, "Life List." More information can be found at (802) 388-4095.

The Spring Street Poets

April 8, 7 – 8 p.m.

The six Spring Street poets will share their distinct voices in work ranging from the profound to the humorous at the New Haven Community Library. More information can be found at (802) 453-4015.

Haiti relief benefit

April 8, 9 – 10 p.m.

Start your weekend early with an evening of fantastic local food and beer at American Flatbread. There will also be a raffle for prizes and silent auction, and all proceeds will support the Partners In Health campaign "Stand for Haiti." Tickets are \$10 for under 21 and \$20 for over 2 and they are available at (802) 443-6433 or <http://www.middlebury.edu/arts/boxoffice>. For more information, please e-mail jortwein@middlebury.edu.

Arts Walk

April 9, 5 – 7 p.m.

Step out on the town for the first Arts Walk of 2010! Stroll downtown and witness Middlebury's transformation into a center for arts, music, food and fun. Arts Walks repeat the second Friday of every month through October, but the first one is not to be missed. Don't forget to stop by the poetry reading at the Vermont Bookstore and visit Jean Cherouny's exhibit, "Painted," opening at The Art House in the Marble Works at the same time.

Gene Childers' 'Vermont Sketches'

April 9, 8 – 9 p.m.

Don't miss this musical revue of 19 songs written by local musician Gene Childers about Vermont and Vermonters. If you can't make it Friday, it is also showing April 10 and 11. Tickets are \$17 and available at the THT box office, (802) 382-9222 or <http://www.townhalltheater.org>.

Pilates and Bollywood dance classes

April 10, 9 – 10 a.m.

The Vermont Center for Classical Pilates in the Marble Works will host three classes to benefit the United Way of Addison County: a 9 a.m. intro to Pilates class, a 10 a.m. intermediate mat class and an 11 a.m. Bollywood dance class. Each class costs \$15 and space is limited, so please call (802) 388-7400 or e-mail ninavccp@gmail.com to make a reservation.

Poetry reading

April 10, 8 – 9 p.m.

The Five Spice Poets will read works from their chapbooks as well as new, unpublished material at The Art House.

The Middlebury Campus

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Editorial

The staff editorial represents the official opinion of
The Middlebury Campus as decided by
the editorial board.

Every right

Let's all take a deep breath — it's been a rocky few weeks, but let's collectively remember that, come September, we will all have a bed to sleep on and a roof over our heads. In the grand scheme of things, we're all lucky.

But putting challenges in perspective rarely makes them any less frustrating. Right now, it feels more therapeutic to throw a little grievance at this administration that has so badly screwed up a process that they know, and have always known, is of paramount importance to the student body.

Where to start? A complete mishandling of the super block process seems appropriate. At the risk of treading over material from our March 18 editorial, it seems pertinent to discuss the first in the comedy of errors in this year's housing selection process. Students who were initially given a place in super block housing have since had to stow their relief and wait as they were told the process would be completed over spring break. Those students are still waiting.

It seems that all any of us have been able to do throughout this process is wait. And it hasn't been easy, watching the administration botch the process by which our year-long living situation is determined. But we've also waited mainly because there hasn't been much else to do.

It's hard not to wonder what happened — and what is happening now. First, in light of the competition between two super blocks over a single house, why did the administration grant more super block opportunities than appeared to be readily available? More importantly, how can Old Chapel attempt to placate students by postponing resolution of the issue to a later date, and then fail to meet its own deadline? And what is more, to put the process on hold again without offering students a third date by which they can expect results?

These and other mix-ups have not inspired confidence for the future. True — in the past, the housing process has been just as stressful, just as out of our control, and followed by just as many complaints as it was this year. But the difference is that this time, we've watched in disbelief as seemingly simple tasks, like accurately apportioning super block housing and randomly assigning numbers to names, have been conducted with a frustrating neglect to detail. Is it really so complicated? Put the people who want to throw parties with alcohol in Ridgeline housing, and people who want to have potlucks in houses closer to town — that's town/gown 101. And Microsoft Excel can assign random numbers (it may not be as swanky as an in-house algorithm, but it's probably a lot simpler and requires no secrets). In theory, this is the job of common sense and basic computer programs. Yet, layers of staff — whose responsibility it is to avoid the very pitfalls we fell into this spring — have fallen short of their duties.

It's disappointing and frustrating to be put through such a run-around, and there's almost no process the administration could have screwed up that would have upset us more. What has historically been a sensitive issue was, to put it lightly, handled with the poorest performance. It affects all students, regardless of seniority, athletic status, or social preference, in a very real way, and we reserve every right to bemoan the unfortunate circumstances and to call for a more explicit explanation than the ambiguous platitude that *somebody forgot to uncheck a box*.

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Op-Ed: Denise Hofmann

Google in China

Google's decision to leave China and redirect Google.cn to its site in Hong Kong has sparked much controversy this past week. While some have praised Google's decision, righteously justifying the need for total Internet freedom and human rights, other commentaries lament this illogical business decision. Views from within the mainland, however, have been too quickly glossed over.

We've heard that Google's symbolic exit from China does not drastically affect the lives of the ordinary public; Baidu's [a rival search engine] services are just as useful, if not even more catered to Chinese netizens. They are not dependent on Google like we are. But, Google's departure from China will have more repercussions than those pertaining to limited international media access.

Google's actions have triggered a government crackdown on Internet use and a drastic increase in censorship. Google's granting of temporary access to all pages available on Google's non-censored Hong Kong site to mainland China was interpreted by the Chinese government as an act of aggression. In response, Chinese government officials quickly addressed the problem by censoring Google Hong Kong and other sites deemed "suspicious," ultimately pushing the nation's censorship policy a few dangerous steps backwards.

More stringent regulations

I remember clearly a student stating a few days ago that the blog of popular writer Han Han on Sina.com would *never* be shut down, for in spite of his popular anti-government voice, the government wouldn't dare upset his hundreds of thousands of followers. Han Han's site is currently down. One could argue that this action most accurately reflects the nature of China's administration, with officials merely using Google's actions as an excuse to clamp down. However, we all know our wonderful Party does not need anything, especially such a well-documented scandal, to justify its actions. For example, I have family friends in Shanghai who were kicked out of their own house so it could be bulldozed and developed by the government. All for a little compensation and a frightening experience.

Chinese political indifference

Chinese people — at all levels of education attainment — are, by and large, politically indifferent. The CCP therefore, does not need to worry about a massive uprising.

I met a 21-year-old who had just heard about the Tiananmen Square "incident" for the first time last week. You would think this to be quite the norm. However, students are often given a vague assertion concerning such subjects in high school and are told to never discuss them again (but don't worry — I have been plying our roommates with YouTube and a subscribed VPN). When I asked the student whether he felt wronged by the government's lack of transparency, he said that as a citizen he wasn't entitled to the Party's "secrets." He also added that revelations such as this happen too often for him to actually care. I was completely caught off guard by this student's apathy.

True authoritarianism?

Yet, perhaps there is wisdom in political indifference. The threat of the government's power is real and present in the daily lives of those who shed their political indifference, especially within state-run institutions.

Four years ago, three students at ZJUT (Zhejiang University of Technology), Middlebury's partner school in Hangzhou, in an effort to get more, better and cheaper

food, persuaded the whole campus to take part in a week long dining hall strike. This was coordinated through the university's online messaging system. It was a great success, apart from the ramifications for the leading students, who were soon after expelled by ZJUT. This decision must have been insisted upon by the Chinese government which now subsidizes our cheap, delicious dining hall meals (I kid you not, we spend around \$1 on every meal).

Although a relatively insignificant example, this anecdote clearly highlights the Chinese government's far-reaching power and influence and reveals some justification for political indifference. Furthermore, due to deeply rooted cultural tendencies that respect hierarchy, the educated public gracefully accepts the censorship of some sites.

Students pay the price for Google's actions; intellectual expansion and outward growth hindered

Google executives thought they were doing the noble thing by standing up for free speech, and making everything available to the masses via the Google Hong Kong site. But Google's actions have produced the opposite effect.

In fact, the Chinese government's Internet censorship blitz is most deeply felt by students. Google's unwillingness to compromise on the principle of Internet freedom is not only further limiting the choice and quality of research available to students, but also hindering China's level of intellectual expansion and outward growth. This is essential for our relationship with this generation of Chinese, with whom we will be working in the future.

Google affects future relations with China

However, because Google's actions have sparked an over-reaction from the Chinese government, more than the politically active are now being affected by censorship. University students with whom I spoke naturally see this as a step backwards in regards to the progress that China's media was making, however slowly, to opening up. By creating such a dent in the Google-China relationship, Google is also forfeiting the opportunity to play a major role in the opening of such a critical market and to influence one of the world's most significant generations. This also carries implications for our generation's future relationship with China.

Google: although standing up to China appears admirable, your stubbornness is compromising the quality of Chinese intellectual development and only fueling the government's censorship tendencies. The only way to help the Chinese achieve intellectual freedom would be to compromise now. Your mere presence in the country as an international corporation, with its many large-scale domestic partnerships, would pressure the government to slowly open up Chinese media. Establishing yourself over time will reap more long-term benefits than those offered by leaving the game in a huff. Moreover, you have forgotten the stakes — not only monetary — involved in your own country's overall relationship with China.

It would be great if you put more thought into who is really being affected by your decisions, namely the Chinese people and their intellectual development.

But the scariest part is, a vast portion of the population thinks it will be fine without you.

DENISE HOFMANN '11 IS FROM HONG KONG.

SHE IS CURRENTLY STUDYING ABROAD IN
HANGZHOU, CHINA.

campus corrections

A recent article about super blocks ("Housing debacle sparks student anger, March 18") incorrectly reported that the Potluck super block would be a substance-free living space. In fact, the group has never explicitly claimed it sought substance-free status. The Campus regrets the error.

campus policies and information

The Opinions pages of The Middlebury Campus provide a forum for constructive and respectful dialogue on substantive issues. With this in mind, The Campus reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks. Any segment of a submitted article that contains any of the aforementioned will be removed before publication. Contributors will be allowed to reference prior articles published in the Opinions section or announcements for the public record. If a reference is made to prior articles, the submission will be considered a letter to the editor. The Campus will not accept or print anonymous letters. The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. The Campus welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 800 words or less. Submit works directly to the Opinions Editors, Drawer 30, campus@middlebury.edu or via the paper's web site at www.middleburycampus.com. To be considered for publications, submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Sunday. The Campus reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Behind Enemy Lines: Andrey Tolstoy

The rise of the bathtub

There must come a time every spring when professors wander over to their windows, open the shades a crack and blast the weather for a fresh pile of last-minute hang-over prose. Despaired, they lock themselves up in the bathroom, plunge into the tub, without undressing, and try to fight off the changing seasons with a hipflask; but the hormones are undefeatable. For my part, I won't bother resisting and let Henry L. Mencken take over my column this week.

On Dec. 28, 1917, Mencken wrote an article for the *Evening Mail*, in which he lamented that Americans had forgotten the struggle endured by the bathtub on its way to becoming a household standard. "A Neglected Anniversary" was immediately condensed and republished by newspapers across the country as the following:

"The first bathtub in the United States was installed in Cincinnati December 20, 1842, by Adam Thompson. It was made of mahogany and lined with sheet lead. At a Christmas party, he exhibited and explained it and four guests later took a dip. The next day the Cincinnati paper devoted many columns to the new invention and it gave rise to violent controversy.

"Some papers designated it as an epicurean luxury, other called it undemocratic, as it lacked simplicity in its surroundings. Medical authorities attacked it as dangerous to health.

"The controversy reached other cities, and in more than one place medical opposition was reflected in legislation. In 1843, the Philadelphia Common Council considered an ordinance prohibiting bathing between November 1 and March 15, and this ordinance failed of passage by but two votes.

"During the same year the Legislature of Virginia laid a tax of \$30 a year on all bathtubs that might be set up. In Hartford, Providence, Charleston and Wilmington special and very heavy water rates were laid on persons who had bathtubs. Boston, in 1845, made bathing unlawful except on medical advice, but the ordinance was never enforced and in 1862 it was repealed.

"President Millard Fillmore gave the bathtub recognition and respectability. While

Vice President, he visited Cincinnati in 1850 on a stumping tour and inspected the original bathtub and used it. Experiencing no ill effects he became an ardent advocate, and on becoming President, he had a tub installed in the White House. The Secretary of War invited bids for the installation. This tub continued to be the one in use until the first Cleveland Administration."

The story was, in fact, a complete invention, yet Mencken was shocked to discover that instead of "encouraging other inquirers" to uncover the hoax, his essay became an authority on the subject:

"Pretty soon I began to encounter my preposterous 'facts' in the writings of other men. They began to be used by chiropractors and other such quacks as evidence of the stupidity of medical men. They began to be cited by medical men as proof of the progress of public hygiene. They got into learned journals. They were alluded to on the floor of Congress. They crossed the ocean, and

were discussed solemnly in England and on the continent. Finally, I began to find them in standard works of reference. Today, I believe, they are accepted as gospel everywhere on earth. To question them becomes as hazardous as to question the Norman invasion..."

Harry S. Truman adamantly abused the piece of trivia when receiving guests at the White House. A 1950 profile in *The New Yorker* observed that "the president seemed reluctant to let go of his belief" in Fillmore's progressive hygiene policy. If you want to see an entire community celebrating denial, come to the town of Moravia, N.Y. in July, during their traditional Fillmore Days. They will even let you race down the main drag in a four-wheel bathtub.

Have you publicized a false history of anything? Are there dubious claims you would like me to research and defend? I will soon be graduating from this newspaper, so if there is anything you're disappointed I still haven't written about, now is your chance to give me ideas. Send it somewhere I can read it.

ANDREY TOLSTOY '10 IS FROM ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA.



heardoncampus

[The biomass plant] was kind of like "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory."

— Laura Williams '11



Notes From the Desk: Lea Calderon-Guthe

A different housing crisis

The lowest number among my potential roommates is about 200 numbers away from Atwater suite status, so we are investigating some off-campus options in anticipation of the administration encouraging more rising seniors to live off campus in the next month. (Where else are all of us going to live?) In our off-campus explorations, my friends and I toured one house, currently occupied by students that highlighted a key housing issue for me.

The yard of the house we toured was strewn with beer cans and trash, and inside, full trash bags were piled in every corner, sticky beer posters were tacked over large holes in the wall and the place was generally splattered with beer and other food-like substances — the walls, the ratty sofa, the busted big screen TV. The landlord told us his current tenants had reported a large amount of "accidental" damage that he was responsible for fixing, and at one point, a tenant's mother had called him to complain that her son was being exposed to "unlivable conditions." I agree with the mother, but the condition of the house was not the landlord's fault, except perhaps in his choice of tenants. The state of this house, and the dorm damage I hear about at the end of every weekend as a member of Atwater's residential life staff, demonstrates to me a distinct lack of respect for property and an inappropriate sense of entitlement among students when it comes to housing.

We all paid our tuition, and so the College is obligated to house us. But clearly not all junior and senior housing is created equal. The only fair way to deal with that issue would seem to be a random housing draw and an off-campus lottery, and then, of course, some students still get the shaft with bad numbers, but at least everyone has an equal chance at ideal housing. I don't think all students should

get the same chance at good housing, however. The spacious rooms and nice suites on campus — "good housing" by my standards — are not a right; they are a privilege. It is a privilege and extra responsibility to be in command of your own small social space, and it is a privilege some students have demonstrated they have not earned, a responsibility they are clearly not ready for. The students I'm referring to are those who repeatedly cause dorm damage or show a general lack of respect for shared space by leaving cans, bottles, cups, food or even their own excrement behind for someone else to clean up.

If students can be accidentally sorted by commons in the housing number distribution process, I would like to see all of us intentionally sorted by the number and severity of disciplinary measures we have incited. Most of us act like responsible adults most of the time (I like to think), so sorting 1,200 people by the amount of dorm damage we've caused would only push a small number of people to the back of the line, but maybe knowledge of what they stand to lose would help keep some of those people in line in the first place. In terms of the off-campus lottery, applicants do have to assert that they have provoked no disciplinary action, but I think commons dean recommendations, or at least sign-offs, should be required as well. If we're unleashing college students on the Middlebury community, I would want to be extra sure they are responsible and deserving of the greater freedom of living off campus provides. The state of the house I visited tells me at least a few students have made it through the lottery who weren't ready for that freedom, especially if they get their parents to deal with their landlord.

LEA CALDERON-GUTHE '11 IS FROM CHAPEL HILL, N.C.

Waters to Wine: Mike Waters

Want a social scene? Three letters: DIY

As the quality of campus social and residential life has become of increasing concern over the past few weeks, the focus of this column has shifted somewhat. Originally geared solely toward the world of alcohol, I now find myself speaking on behalf of Middlebury's distinct social troubles. While I would hardly pretend that alcohol consumption represents the height of social activity, as a columnist focused on a subject inherently outside the realm of academics or other organized collegiate activities, I feel as qualified as anyone to speak in this instance.

Recently we've witnessed a rising tide of angst and anger in respect to Middlebury's social scene. From the ongoing debacle of room draw, the controversy over super blocks and the continuing absence of large-scale parties happening anywhere on this campus, students seem more conscious than ever of the potential problems plaguing our social lives. And while these concerns are not unfounded, I can tell you that this episode plays itself out on a semi-regular basis.

Every senior ever will tell you that this college was a better place when he or she was a first-year — I distinctly remember it being said to me four years ago (even as I sometimes think it now). Nostalgia and senior year go together as readily as the housing process and general incompetence; as our college lives draw to a close, seniors can't help but assess how things have changed during our time here, from the most sweeping, large-scale ruptures to the subtle shifts in consciousness that alter our experience. Inevitably, what seniors harp on most — instead of the closing of Atwater, the loss of nights in the Health Center or nearly anything from the pre-financial crisis days — is the perceived decline in Middlebury's social life.

Although some alums might have you believe that things have been going downhill ever since their graduation, this perceived decline is more a result of the shifting experiences of seniors over four college years. After four years of college life and (we hope) a more developed outlook on the world, campus and its environs appear in a different light. As time passes and our views change, we can't look on everything with the same sense of wonder and excitement that we might have as first-years.

That's not to say that this school hasn't changed at all. Even besides the perks we lost in the aftermath of the endowment collapse, things have been changing here right along. For example, our hockey teams haven't won a national title in four years! ... But to be more serious, when I was a first-year, my senior friends described a school where every weekend the Ridgeline Woods would erupt with social house parties, where winter nights saw massive events around bonfires and where crowds could wander across campus knowing they'd run into something fun. Now, as we look at the sorry state of our social houses, the dearth of happenings on an average weekend, and the months-long hibernation campus goes into every winter, one can't help but question where things are going.

Of course, four years ago, our ranking was nowhere near what it is now, admissions numbers were lower and all other indicators painted a picture of an institution clearly not on par with the excellence of today. By every measure, it seems this school has been improving at a rate commensurate with the size of our endowment in the headiest of times. Less easy to measure is how much people value their experience here, how much they invest in their relationships and

how much time they make to get out of Bi-Hall and actually do something that doesn't require a written report upon its conclusion. There's life here that can't be measured on paper and that won't be reflected in our admissions statistics.

What worries me more than this school being overrun by recluses, perfect SAT scores or socially inept grade grubbers, however, are the complaints I hear about bad weekends with nothing going on. It seems that most weekends on this campus pass with broad complaints about the lack of events or anecdotes of how Public Safety broke up that one party. As in everything, people are quick to complain, but much less likely to actually do something about it.

If there is one bit of wisdom I could provide as a senior, then, it is this: events don't just happen, they need to be created. People spend too much time complaining about the lack of parties on weekends and not enough time actually making those parties happen. Campus "social life" isn't some independent entity determined by some intricate system of levers and gauges deep under the biomass plant, it is the sum of all of our actions and of how we choose to make use of our four years here.

If people want to see things improve on this campus (at least in the somewhat limited sphere of activity I describe), they had better take action for it. We can't continue to stand idly by as the days of our riotous youth pass with ever increasing frequency. It's time we all let homework slide, forget the stresses of the outside world and do College the way we imagined it. Starting this weekend.

MIKE WATERS '10 IS FROM BEDFORD, MASS.

Op-Ed: Karin Hanta

Response to "Women's History Month"

Conversations about women's and gender issues are alive and well at Middlebury. Throughout the school year, the Women's and Gender Studies Program and Chellis House, the Women's Resource Center, organize roughly 60 events. Each February, we look at the intersections of race and gender, as exemplified in the WAGS and Chellis-supported "What is Color" series, organized by the student group Women of Color. March is dedicated to women's history. During Gaypril, we look at issues of gender and sexuality. While the different "theme months" provide us with a red thread, we by no means restrict ourselves to covering merely one theme during a particular time period. If a speaker happens to be in the area or is only available on a certain date, we still make events happen.

This brings me to my next point: the work involved in organizing events. Any student who has ever tried to bring an event to campus can attest to the fact that it takes hours upon hours to have a successful outcome. In your article Feb. 25 "Women's

History Month celebrates 127 years of co-education," your writers criticize Chellis House, stating that the events for women's history were badly advertised. They probably overlooked the fact that the programming for the women's history month event series was emailed to the whole campus on Feb. 9 as well as subsequent reminders for single events. In addition, the College's Web calendar lists events on a daily basis. For our big-name speaker Helen Benedict, we sent out an all-campus e-mail and hung up 70 posters all around campus.

I have often heard that students don't read e-mails, yet, if you send them too many, they get upset. At an environmentally conscious campus as ours, paper posters are also frowned upon. I would therefore like to invite suggestions on how to best advertise events. It seems to me that organizers are caught between a rock and a hard place.

Helen Benedict's lecture was organized

in cooperation with St. Michael's College, one of our "neighboring counterparts," as your writers call them in their article. To my knowledge, Ms. Benedict's lecture was the ONLY event at St. Michael's for women's history month. The women's center at UVM organized six special events on their campus of 15,000. By comparison, the Women's and Gender Studies Program and Chellis House organized eight events for a student population of 2,500. When your writers claim that Women's History Month is celebrated "with less vigor" at Middlebury than at "neighboring counterparts," they do not seem to be basing this claim on any research.

Your interviewee Lark Nierenberg wondered "how much conversation [and inspiration] comes from [celebrating women's history month]." Judging from animated discussions at Chellis House and at other events, I cannot help but think that participants are stimulated intellectually and spiritually. Ms. Nierenberg herself is scheduled to give a talk for Gaypril at Chellis House on April 1. Your interviewee Ariel Smith remarked that nobody gave a "s**t about Black History Month [or Women's History Month]." Many of our events, like Julia Alvarez's lecture on March 10 (article "Alvarez 'colors' gender discussion") are filled to the last seat. Some people do seem to care, after all.

And since this paper also serves as a promotional forum, I would like to invite the campus to our annual Gensler Endowment/CCSRE Symposium "Interrogating Citizenship: Sex, Class, Race, and Regimes of Power" on April 2 and 3. This symposium looks at how sexuality, class and race have affected the concept of citizenship in projects of nation building, war, empire and labor mobilization. The conversation continues ...

KARIN HANTA IS THE DIRECTOR OF CHELLIS HOUSE.

Op-Ed: Kristen Faiferlick

Vegan for a month

About a month ago, I decided to try out veganism. I know what you're thinking. Vegans are tree-hugging, granola-loving liberals who only eat carrots and leaves. Well, bear with me, and maybe I can help draw a more accurate picture.

Why would I ever consider veganism? Unlike most people, my decision wasn't entirely based on moral or ideological grounds. Many vegans will cite environmental concerns, animal cruelty, chemical or hormonal problems with animal products, their own dietary concerns or a range of other valid topics as reasons for not eating animal products. However, I was simply curious. After overhearing a vegan tell an omnivore that only the first 20 days of veganism were hard, I decided to give it a shot and see how true that statement was. Let me tell you, it's been an adventure.

Before I continue, a distinction needs to be made: veganism does not just concern food. Vegans do not purchase or wear animal products of any type. That means no wool, no silk and no leather. This is different from vegetarianism, practitioners of which usually only restrict themselves to not eating meat. In general, I think it's fair to say that vegetarianism is a diet, while veganism is a lifestyle. Of course, there are exceptions on both sides. During my month-long trial of veganism, I was one of those exceptions. I wanted to try the diet but wasn't quite ready to jump into the lifestyle.

Throughout my month of dietary veganism, I've surprised myself. I've made some darn-good vegan desserts (coconut-lime cupcakes, anyone?) and gained considerable insights into both food and people. Going vegan cold-turkey (if you'll excuse the expression) teaches you a lot.

First off, it forces you to get creative. Who would have thought of combining oatmeal, cranberries, and coconut flakes? Let me say it here: you're never too old to play with your food. The pure necessity of finding new flavor combinations forces you to explore the food in the dining halls and the supermarket.

Secondly, it makes you actually look at what's in your food. Vegans have an absurd knowledge of ingredients. Of course, it was a vegan who told me that some wines have

fish scales in them. There are more animal products than you'd think in most foods. Example: every single granola bar in the snack isle of Hannaford is non-vegan (they all contain milk, eggs or both). Conversely, who knew Oreos were vegan? Does that seem a little odd to anyone else?

The third thing I learned was that people have really odd reactions to veganism. Usually, they border on two extremes: hostility or complete awe. If the reaction is hostile, they usually begin by generally attacking veganism, questioning your judgment, listing the merits of meat, searching for hypocrisy or unnecessarily expounding on the mouth-watering flavor of whatever non-vegan food they're eating. Here's a little hint from vegans to omnivores: contrary to what you may think, vegans do not appreciate this.

Omnivores are rarely forced to explain why they eat what they eat, while vegans must constantly defend their dietary choices. There seems to be an unfair double-standard. There's no reason to feel threatened by someone's choice to be vegan. With some annoying exceptions, vegans don't attack omnivores for their dietary choices, and I think I can speak for all vegans when I say that we'd appreciate the same treatment.

However, sometimes the reaction is the complete opposite. I often hear "Wow, I could never do that," or "That must be so hard." To be honest, I thought the same thing at first. And veganism is difficult (both during and beyond the first 20 days). But frankly, you'd be surprised at what you can do. Which brings me to my final point. Veganism is not a weird, extreme lifestyle, nor is it impossible for the average person. It takes some time and consideration to be sure you are getting all the nutrients your body needs and to be sure you aren't paying an arm and a leg at the grocery counter. But veganism can be done in a healthy, cheap (surprise!) and amazingly normal way. You don't have to be a member of PETA or Greenpeace to be a vegan. Try it. You might surprise yourself. And even more importantly, you might learn some-

KRISTEN FAIFERLICK '10 IS FROM MUKILTEO, WASH.

Op-Ed: Dr. John Searles

Disagreeing with "the guess"

I won't take the time to respond to Mr. Alexander's vituperative, unprofessional and insulting (possibly slanderous) comments, except to say his endorsement of the European Myth about drinking is regrettable. Research has demonstrated that there is more consumption and more hazardous consumption among European youths than their peers in the U.S. Perhaps it would be useful for Mr. Alexander to actually read the research summaries I provided in my previous comments. As I have mentioned, simply asserting something is so does not make it so.

However, I would like to address the very thoughtful comments of Mr. Trombulak. While his very reasonable idea of a graduated drinking license seems appealing, there are some logical and science-based issues that need to be addressed. Other than the "old enough to fight, old enough to drink" argument I hear during my presentations (which I won't address here), there is the idea that if we (parents and the educational system) could only take the time to inform youth about the dangers of hazardous drinking this would then provide a basis for them to drink responsibly. It's a very nice sounding idea — unfortunately, it has no basis in science. The closest analogy to this educational process is driver's education, which presumably prepares young drivers for the daunting task of safely negotiating the demands of driving a car. Here is what the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recently (2009) reported about driver's education: "Studies have failed to show that driver education courses produce safer drivers."

The World Health Organization (WHO) Expert Committee on Problems Related to Alcohol has stated: "The Committee considered that while provision of information and persuasion is perennially attractive as an intervention to reduce alcohol related harm, particularly in relation to younger people, theory and evidence would suggest that this is unlikely to achieve sustained behavioral change, particularly in an environment in which many competing messages are received in the form of marketing material and

social norms supporting drinking, and in which alcohol is readily accessible." Also: "The Committee noted the results of a number of careful systematic reviews that have been published of evaluations of school-based education which aimed to reduce alcohol-related harm and concluded that the results have not provided support for classroom-based education as an effective intervention to reduce alcohol-related harm. Although there is evidence of positive effects on increased knowledge about alcohol and in improved attitudes, there is no evidence for a sustained effect on behavior."

[Graduated learning is] a very nice sounding idea — unfortunately it has no basis in science.

So, the bottom line is that studies have clearly demonstrated that educational efforts to reduce hazardous drinking in 16-20 year olds have been ineffective. There are many psychological, social, developmental and biological reasons for this failure which I won't take the time to explain in this short note, except to restate the WHO Expert Committee's and Dr. Jernigan's point about the amount of pro-alcohol media our youth are exposed to on a daily basis.

Let me address the specific program proposed by Mr. Trombulak. He is incorrect in stating there are no peer-reviewed studies that address the principles underlying the program. First, there are a wealth of studies that clearly and

conclusively demonstrate age of drinking onset is a robust predictor of later alcohol-related problems. More to the point, in a study published in January of this year, researchers from The Netherlands (in Europe!) examined the effect of drinking at home with and without parental supervision. They concluded: "However, in our study, drinking at home predicted increased levels of drinking at home, of drinking outside the home, and problem drinking, while also controlling for previous use in both contexts." They further stated that "Our findings suggest that parents who do not want their children to develop heavy drinking patterns later on should prohibit the alcohol use of their adolescent children at home and outside the home at an early age." And finally: "Based on all of the aforementioned results, we could conclude that, if adolescents start to drink, no matter in what setting, with whom they drink [parents or friends], or their age, adolescents will drink more alcohol over time and (consequently) are at risk for problem drinking, a trend also found in previous research."

Finally, I would ask Mr. Trombulak this question: What would be the criteria for success or failure of the programs you proffer? That is, how many lives need to be sacrificed in alcohol-related traffic accidents or other alcohol-related deaths, how many traumatic sexual assaults have to occur, or how many suicides have to happen before these types of programs are deemed ineffective or worse, harmful? Since we know that increasing access to alcohol in this age group will most certainly increase alcohol-related harms this is a fundamental question.

"It doesn't matter how beautiful the guess is, or how smart the guesser is, or how famous the guesser is; if the experiment disagrees with the guess, then the guess is wrong. That's all there is to it."

— Richard Feynman, Nobel Laureate

DR. JOHN SEARLES IS A RESEARCH AND POLICY ANALYST FOR THE VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Across

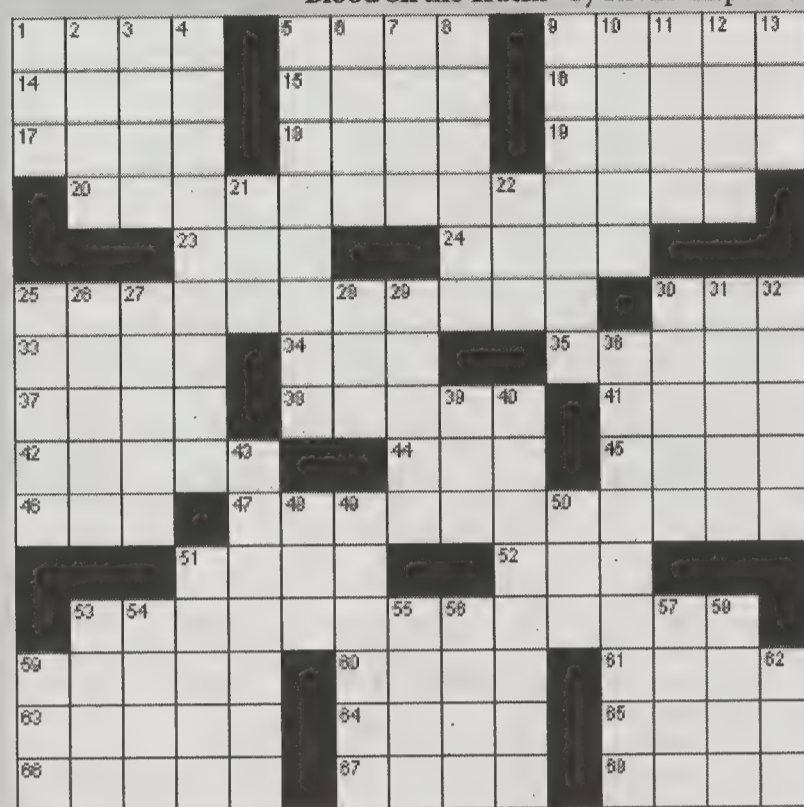
1. Declare
5. Middle-Earth continent
9. It's the key to playing keys in the right key?
14. Flat-topped hill
15. Famous showgirl
16. Brit's paparazzo fling Ghalib
17. City in southern Israel
18. Weather meas.
19. Four, Prefix
20. Track 10 on "Blood on the Tracks"
23. N.A.S.A.'s alien robot
24. Its capital is Vientiane
25. 'With _____ home, like a complete unknown'
30. Stat. variation value
33. 'Psh, yeah right.'
34. Popular X-Box game, briefly
35. Suburban metro in Germany
37. Royal name in Norway
38. D-Day locale
41. "_____ to piss in" (2 words)
42. Brawl
44. Doze off
45. Belgian river
46. Big org. in April
47. Homage song to folkie Guthrie
51. Tennis great Arthur
52. Datum for a tanner
53. Collaboration with "The Band"
59. Hopefully not a 'Hopeful' in 2012
60. Heidi Klum's beau
61. Ninth letter in the Greek alphabet
63. Son of Abraham
64. Border circling a shield
65. Chew on
66. Parisian waterway
67. Hiking program for Febs, maybe

Down

1. Org. for 26-across
2. 1-across, e.g.
3. Jacob's twin
4. "Harry Potter" actor Daniel
5. Clark Kent to Superman, e.g.
6. Dom Pérignon producer
7. Charity for the beleaguered
8. Birthplace of pizza, to Italians
9. Supporters
10. Lightbulbs, maybe?
11. Against
12. "Babylon 5" alien race
13. 'I'm a man _____ mission' (2 words)
21. First Professor of U.N.C. David
22. _____ Schwarz
25. "The Ring" actress Watts
26. 'Father of Modern Medicine' William
27. Calls
28. Website ender, often
29. Banjo resonance, colloquially
30. Trinidadian music style
31. Put a slipper on
32. Data inclusion
36. Kennedy's foreign policy fiasco
39. Topper for Sabathia
40. Peter and James
43. Basically, with 'in'
48. Resistance measure
49. "Schindler's List" actor Liam
50. Largest New Deal prgm.
51. P.F. Chang cuisine
53. Military post
54. Jai _____
55. Last emperor of the Julio-Claudian dynasty
56. Like some tales
57. Ages
58. Musial or Lee
59. French idiom 'de mal en _____'
62. Reactions to a newborn

The Campus Crossword

"Blood on the Tracks" by Kevin Carpenter



Answers can be found online tomorrow at www.middleburycampus.com

Op-Ed: Melissa Hirsch My schooling is getting in the way of my education

There's a bulletin board on the third floor of Bi-Hall that lists upcoming lectures in science. I passed by it a few weeks ago and noticed a lecture on motivation and brain levels of dopamine. I thought I might go.

Then I went to class, was reminded of how much homework I have to do, was assigned more work and was thoroughly confused by some equation about Gibbs free energy that I didn't understand during class and would have to work out on my own later. And I had four tests that week.

It wasn't the only week this semester that I became nervous my brain might ooze from my face, and it also wasn't the only time that I felt my learning was compromised by my workload. Learning would be a lot easier if problem sets weren't all designed to take over 12 hours, if I didn't have what I consider "busy work" and hundreds of pages of reading, and it would also be easier if I were granted the headspace to actually think about the material.

I once asked a professor why the lot of them assign us so much work. His response surprised me: students are not actually expected to do everything on his syllabus. When I asked why he would bother, then, to stress us out even more by assigning work that he knows we probably cannot get done, he claimed that the students most interested in the material will do all of it, and that this difference in effort often separates the As from the Bs. It's somewhat valid, but an unnecessary and unwarranted method of distinguishing students, I think, and I knew then that I would never take a class of his.

My theory is that if I had less assigned work I would actually get to think about class material, maybe go to any one of the random film screenings on campus, or maybe even devote enough time into the work I crank out to take some pride in it. Of course, that's giving me a bit too much credit — if I had less work to do, I might also "just" hang out with my friends more — but, quite frankly, what's the point of bringing together 2,400 curious and interesting (and interested) people if we don't

even have time to talk to each other? And how much of what I've learned here that is actually important — you know, the personal growth part of our education, the part that is too often left in the shadows of our formal education — have I learned from my coursework? Maybe, generously, 30 percent. I believe I have learned the rest from my peers.

That is not to say that I don't value my classes. I really, really do. I am fascinated and in awe of my major every day; that's why I picked it, and I often brag about the breadth of courses at my feet here to people who haven't even asked. But because I have so much work to do, I don't get adequate time to think about course material, to process it or to integrate it into my daily wanderings around campus. With so much to do, I get too entwined in academics to really learn or really see what I think is the point: that academics are only one facet of education. And they are an important one, but I do not see them as the definition of my college experience. That comes from everything else.

So what happens when I have too much to do? Lately, I've noticed that I don't attempt anything because it feels like no amount of effort, no matter how concentrated, will even dent the gigantic mass o' stuff to get done. The mountain of homework that obstructs my desk every night can even squelch my interest in the material.

The sheer irony of that is at least a little striking, don't you think? I am a pretty darn motivated person if I say so myself, and I am finally in the midst of the kinds of courses I wanted but lacked in high school, but the load can get so overwhelming that I don't even want to learn anymore. Perhaps this applies to you, too. I would tell you more about how all that works in my brain, about levels of dopamine and other neurotransmitters, but I couldn't go to that lecture.

MELISSA HIRSCH '11 IS FROM KATONAH, N.Y.



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RELIGION REALIZED: Hillel facilitates the merger of Jewish faith and culture

By Michelle Smoler and Lauren Davidson
Photo by Nicolas Sohl, Photo Editor

Most religious communities arise through people partaking in similar spiritual expression; however, the role of ethno-religious groups has begun changing the definition of religion. Judaism, while founded on the basis of monotheistic belief and following the laws set down by God, has grown into much more than a form of spiritual expression for its congregants, especially those living in the United States. While most Jews still connect with the religious aspects of Judaism — as the oldest surviving monotheistic religion — many feel more connected to the ancient traditions and long history of the Jews as a “people.”

Because of the ethno-religious nature of Judaism, individuals’ Jewish identities stem from different sources. The attachment to the scriptures and the religious representations are not necessarily what inspires a Jew toward his or her practices — it is much more personal.

“For me, [my experience as a Jew] is tied to my grandparents, who are both survivors of the Holocaust and that’s, for me, the root of my Jewish identity,” said Nadia Schreiber ’12, co-president of Hillel.

“My Jewish identity,” described Hannah Stonebreaker ’13, “comes from the community Judaism creates. That’s why I follow [the religion].”

Maya Barzilai ’13 is not observant but says that it is important to her to be around other Jews because of her background. Being Israeli, she can take part in more cultural aspects that may not be offered elsewhere on campus. She also believes that being away at college has made her religion stronger because of the effort to be active.

“I am more deliberate here. I have to make a point of my Judaism,” said Barzilai.

While practicing Judaism can be very personal, the Middlebury chapter of Hillel creates a community of Jews

based on all backgrounds, impulses and associations. This environment of spirit, religion and acceptance is necessary on campus, as many students transition from their home lives.

“In [New York City] growing up,” said Schreiber, “if someone wasn’t raised Jewish, their best friend was and so they grew up going to celebrate Hannukah with their friends and so they always knew about the different traditions and so I didn’t feel a need to connect with being Jewish. It was always a part of my life. Then coming here, suddenly I was like, ‘Oh God, no one’s Jewish, no one knows what I’m talking about,’ and I felt the need more to seek out a Jewish community and I’ve definitely become more connected with [the Jewish community].”

For many students, college is a place of discovery, independence and overwhelming questions. Without the guidance of parents and spiritual leaders, students must decide for themselves exactly how religious they are and what role they want religion to play in their lives. While this can be a daunting task, Hillel and the greater Jewish population in Addison County prove to be helpful, as they support and guide students in life and spirit.

“We started an adoption program so Jewish students can be adopted by Jewish families in town and have somewhere to go to for a Seder or a meal or to talk to about religious crises,” said Schreiber.

To help foster growth and understanding of Judaism in the community, Hillel encourages open discussion and becoming involved in Jewish culture. Jacob Udell ’12 sees Hillel as a place where he can be involved in learning outside of the classroom.

“I think Hillel, regardless of whether you’re necessarily religiously inclined before school or not, has really become that place for people where you are part of a community that both has a lot of fun and is able to foster extra academic learning, growth, and relationships,” he said.

Being from a predominately Jewish community before attending Middlebury, Udell did not experience much re-

ligious diversity. However, the plethora of backgrounds on campus has become an opportunity for him to create an open dialogue on religious topics and consider other perspectives on faith.

“I grew up only around Jews, which is great for a lot of reasons, but also it is insufficient,” said Udell. “It’s really hard to balance not only thinking about ethics and ideals on a universal level but also to live in that way.”

Udell also describes his *kippah* (Jewish head covering) as a form of active expression. It serves as both a part of his beliefs and a means to talk to non-Jews about its purpose in his life and foster communication about religious ideals and diversity.

“I’m one of the few people [on campus] who wear a kippah and it’s been really amazing to see how people relate to that expression,” he said.

Although Hillel and other religious groups on campus provide a starting place for discussions about faith, Udell believes it is up to students to continue conversation about their religious practices and beliefs because, in his opinion, to understand one’s own beliefs it is important to learn the beliefs of others.

“I think that a general active goal of the religious community on campus should be to foster interfaith [dialogue],” said Udell, “not for the sake of being interfaith but for personal growth and having more the kinds of conversations that can come from [interfaith interactions].”

This series has explored many different expressions of faith, ranging from Unitarian Universalist perspectives to the more conservative and meticulous practices of Islam. However, it is apparent that each religious group, while striving to achieve its own spiritual and religious goals, puts a great deal of importance on the understanding and appreciation of all spiritual groups. It is precisely this liberal attitude on campus that permits religious students, often segregated, to come together to learn from each other: to compare their similarities, derive strength from their differences, and explore new truths in old practices.

FINAL PART OF AN ONGOING SERIES
ABOUT RELIGIOUS LIFE ON CAMPUS

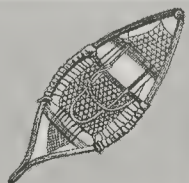


Hillel hosts community-centered events to foster an open environment for discussions of cultural and religious issues within Judaism.

Courtesy

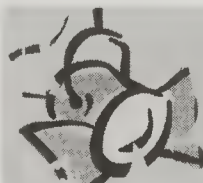
Snowshoeing for the adventurous

Imagine running up a mountain with cement, only to wrestle an Olympian, page 13.



Kicking off Gaypril

Gain insight into a three parent family in the Netherlands, page 14.



Legally Blonde

Meet Linda Booska, PSCI department coordinator, page 13.

Snowshoe 'death race' draws an eager crowd

By Rachael Jennings
FEATURES EDITOR

Andy Weinberg, assistant swim coach at the College, has been putting on races since he was a college student, and has always had a passion for distance races that could never be satisfied by routine triathlons.

"My friends and I were doing triathlons and we could never find distances that we liked," said Weinberg. "So we started our own race."

The first race he directed was a two-mile swim, a 20-mile biking stretch and an eight-mile run — his races were certainly not geared to the weak. Yet nothing compares to the event he and a number of eager competitors participated in this winter, celebrating its fourth anniversary.

"It was a snowshoe race, kind of like the Death Race, but on snow," explained one contender, George Heinrichs '11.

As there were only two marathon snowshoe races in the country, Weinberg and his friend, with Peak Races, decided to create their own four years ago, and were so impressed by the turnout that they decided to expand the race, offering four distances, including the 100-mile snowshoe race.

"We think it's the only 100-mile snowshoe race in the world and we can only find two times that distance has ever been done on snowshoes but never nonstop," said Weinberg. "In 1758, there was the Battle On Snowshoes near Lake George, N.Y. The soldiers covered that distance while fighting. The other time was in the early 1920s, when some men left Montreal en route to Toronto on snowshoes. I don't think they did this nonstop, though."

The four distances attract a variety of participants from different racing backgrounds, including about 50 to 60 college-aged students each year. This year, about 200 people showed up to participate in the races on March 6.

"We have people who have never touched snowshoes and their goal may be to finish the 10k," he said. "We have others doing the half-marathon, marathon and the 100-mile distance."

The variety of races put on by Peak Races attracts many young athletes, including those like Heinrichs, who had been planning to simply do the snowshoe marathon on a Saturday morning, only to receive an e-mail from Weinberg inviting him to come down to Pitts-

field on Friday.

"I drove down to Pittsfield, met up with Andy, and he asked if I wanted to do a Snowshoe Death Race," said Heinrichs. "I said yes."

The race brought plenty of surprises for Heinrichs.

"They began the race by giving us shirts covered with itching powder, but they didn't tell us," explained Heinrichs. "At one point I got to wrestle a U.S. Olympic wrestler. He threw me like a caber. Towards the end of the race they had us sit in a pond while they took

Some might call this adrenaline mixed with sleep deprivation, but I call it contentment.

—George Heinrichs

us individually into the woods. They had set up a station for shooting. I had never shot a handgun, and this was a .40-caliber. I barely trusted myself to walk a straight line, let alone shoot a gun. I was somewhat spacey at this point in the race so they had to tell me that I had hit the targets."

The lack of sleep was one of Heinrich's biggest struggles; the race took place from 10:30 p.m. on Friday through 1:30 p.m. on Saturday.

"You don't enter with a focused manner for this kind of race, as they never tell you what the race will consist of," said Heinrichs. "Even while you're racing you don't know what's coming next."

Training for a competitive race of this type requires much focus and discipline, as racers must be ready for anything — from itch powder-covered shirts to wrestling matches with Olympians.

"Training for a snowshoe race is much like training for a running race but you must incorporate more hiking into the equation, and I always recommend strength training because carrying the extra weight on your feet and a pack can add up," noted Weinberg.

Heinrich's advice is to chop wood as part of training.

"Chopping wood is the one event that always occurs in these races," he said. "Joe, the founder of Peak Races, has a lot of land and a lot of wood to split. So, he just has the racers do the work for him."

Yet, what makes these races so exciting is not necessarily the skill set or training techniques; it is the union of adventurous, adrenaline seeking people.

Weinberg recalled the first year that he and his friend organized the race. When they returned to the house after dark from marking the course on snowmobiles, they found two college-aged men sitting on the porch.

"I still don't remember how they [arrived], as they did not have a vehicle with them," said Weinberg. "I think they may have hitchhiked

from Tufts University. They were by far the youngest participants, but they were so pleasant to be around; they were in a great mood all day. One of them was carrying a boom box, and they have returned every year and always carry the same boom box. This year, they ran in Speedo swimsuits with paint all over

their bodies."

Though he participates in the race as a director, Weinberg feels that he can give back to the sport, for a love of endurance and for the young athletes who dare to take the risks of the race, testing both their physical and mental strength.

"It's fun to be up all night, carrying a con-

crete bucket up a mountain," said Heinrichs. "Being around other people who share this view is amazing. I wanted to be tested, to help clear my mind. At some point in the race I found this focus, undisturbed by worries or cares. I was where I wanted to be, doing what I wanted to do. Some might call this adrenaline mixed with sleep deprivation, but I call it contentment. I left the race with a stronger sense of self. Knowing what you're capable of is a terrific feeling."



Courtesy
Three brave competitors face the unexpected challenges of an ultimate snowshoe marathon.

staffspotlight

Linda Booska

Linda Booska, the Department of Political Science's academic coordinator, has worked in administrative roles for a long time and in many settings, from stockbroker offices and big legal firms to nonprofit agencies, but she has never lost sight of her first priority: raising her son.

Linda was born in Burlington, Vt., and grew up in South Burlington. She graduated from South Burlington High School in 1978. Right after high school, she went to work at a stockbroker office as a secretary.

Linda was only at the stockbroker office for a few months before going to work at the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC), a nonprofit agency that

helps young Vermonters finance and navigate higher education. After three years at VSAC, Linda began working as a legal secretary at a big law firm in Burlington.

Linda worked as a legal secretary for 17 years in all, working at a couple of big firms for a while. Later, she worked at a smaller firm, where she served as office manager in addition to her duties as a legal secretary. Then, in 1998, she came to work for the College in the position she currently holds. She has now been at the College for more than a decade.

Linda could not be happier about getting out of the legal business and coming to work at the College.

Courtesy "It was the best decision I

ever made," she said.

Indeed, Linda described her experience in the legal field with a cringe, of sorts. Working around several attorneys made for a stressful work environment, to say the least, she said. Even worse, many of the attorneys didn't exactly get along. Linda described scenes in which the attorneys would storm into each others' offices, slam the door and engage in a thunderous argument complete with a healthy selection of expletives. And this was not an infrequent occurrence.

Not only did the lawyers think their fellow lawyers were doing everything wrong, they also micromanaged the secretaries, expecting them to be working fastidiously every moment of every day, with not a moment to spare.

As time went on, the considerable commute to Burlington also became straining — Linda lives in Bristol — especially with a young son just starting kindergarten. The time had certainly come to move on.

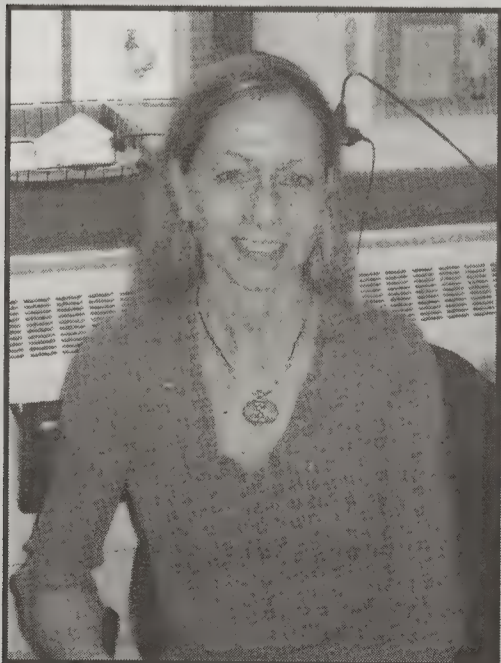
Working at the College has allowed Linda to develop a close and open relationship with her only son, Jamie, who is an A-student at Mt. Abraham Union High School. Jamie will be attending Vermont Tech in Randolph next fall to study architecture and engineering. Linda is certainly going to miss Jamie while he's away at school, but Randolph is close enough that Jamie will be home on weekends.

"That way I can do his laundry," Linda said with a smile.

Aside from spending time with her son and helping him with his college arrangements, Linda also enjoys swimming, snowshoeing, gardening and walking her two dogs, Charlie and Mac, who each weigh over 100 pounds. Linda also has three cats: Smokey, Sox and Sammy.

Linda humbly tried to insist that she didn't have any wisdom to pass down to students. After some encouraging, she said "I really don't know what to say. Just keep your head on your shoulders. There's a lot of bad stuff out there that you have to be careful of."

—Conrad Trimboth, Staff Writer



The L-Word



Dear readers, I asked you to write in, and you wrote! Not surprisingly, you asked about long term, long distance relationships (LTLDR): how to keep them fresh, how to keep them going and how to keep them sexy without releasing naked photos of yourself to the Internet.

Before I delve into how to maintain a LTLDR, let me present the idea that all people in LTLDRs know but hate to hear: they are hard. Of course, I want to say that love is always worth the effort — and if your long distance partner is truly the one for you, that love is certainly worth the effort — but we all want to be where our hearts are, and if your heart is halfway around the world with your long distance partner, then you can't be fully present here and you might miss opportunities to make new connections.

If you're really committed to your LTLDR, good for you and please pardon my questions as to its worth. I only ask because I've attempted a LTLDR before (freshman year, when everyone tries them) and it ended up just being my attempt to hold onto my high school self. They can be great buffers against frightening or uncomfortable change and growth. If you're trying to keep a LTLDR going for the long haul, personal growth might be the biggest obstacle: if you don't grow together, you will grow apart, and growing together is difficult for any couple, let alone those who grow at two separate schools. Other couples have the opportunity to do things together frequently, or just to be in the same room experiencing the same random Wednesday afternoon, but long distance partners have to go into detailed accounts of their separate lives to create shared experience — communication is obviously key.

A lot of long distance couples think that every exchange then has to be meaningful to make up for all of the time they haven't spent together, but just as important as the heart-to-hearts are the silly conversations about literally nothing — the sweet nothings, if you will. The random text (or 100 random texts a day if your plan allows it) is a beautiful thing, almost as good as running into your significant other after class for two seconds. The random invitation to hang out is also great. If your partner were here, you could just drop by his or her room and fool around on YouTube or do your homework together. Thanks to the magic of Skype and webcams, you can also go back to your room and just hang out with your partner. Low-key, unplanned hang-out time will add up and help the relationship feel less effortful and more like you're physically with each other.

That's the other challenge of LTLDRs: how to maintain a sex life while apart and act like normal adults (instead of horny teens) for the short periods of time you're together. Personally, I don't see anything wrong with acting like a horny teen — it's a lot of fun and you really do have to make up for lost time in that department. But if you prefer more civilized interactions, try to focus on just being together naked for a while (if you can stand it), sharing intimate space. Sex is often used to feel close to each other, but once you've gotten the initial build-up out of the way, just being intimate might feel just as good. In terms of having a sex life while you're apart, I am a fan of the naughty Skype chat (a little striptease is always fun even if you're just putting on your pajamas), but I realize that's not for everyone. My recommendation is letters. If the goal is just to feel close, nothing is closer over long distance (in my opinion) than a handwritten, thoughtful and loving letter that you know your partner put time into. It doesn't even have to be naughty.

Lea Calderon-Guthe '11.5 is a local news editor from Chapel Hill, N.C.

Boyles reveals secrets of Shangri-La

By Simone Dinshaw
STAFF WRITER

Middlebury's Febs do all sorts of wild and wonderful things during their semester before college, so it is impressive if not surprising that Morgan Boyles '12.5 decided to hike through the Himalayas with his father on a search for ancient documents of the Bon religion. The Middlebury Mountain Club (MMC) had screened the film, entitled "Secrets of Shangri-La: Quest for Sacred Caves" on March 11. Despite being scheduled in the middle of midterms, the event drew a sizable mixed audience of climbing enthusiasts, religion studies majors, history buffs and other curious students.

Bon is the oldest spiritual Tibetan tradition, and has been losing influence among the Tibetan people since the rise of Buddhism in the 7th century. Boyles was a climber and assistant cameraman for the trip, which was made into a film documenting the expedition.

The expedition took place in Mustang, Nepal in the fall of 2008. The goal of the trip was to investigate previously inaccessible caves to find artifacts, texts and Buddhist and Bon cave murals, in order to paint a clearer picture of the region's past. Boyles' father, Edgar Boyles, was the director of photography and main cinematographer on the trip. Christian Woodard '11, current president of the MMC, succinctly summed up what might have been a typical reaction to the film.

"Morgan's experience there sometimes makes me wish that I had a videographer for a father," said Woodard.

Boyles, an Environmental Studies-non-fiction major, quipped, "Basically, I want to major in John Elder." On the expedition he was able to combine two of his passions, climb-

ing and film, quite literally, as his job was to film the climb as well as film in the caves where the larger cameras could not be taken. On the expedition, the climbers often had to resort to dangerous "choss" climbing — that is, climbing loose or rotten rock — to reach these caves. Whether making the exciting discovery of a Bon library dating from the mid-15th century or finding untouched human remains, the journey was filled with adventure.

In the film, the story of the climbers is interspersed with Bon legends and commentary on the changing cultural and political environment of the remote Mustang region, which Boyles described as "frozen in time because of its poverty." Boyles does not agree with the title of the film, explaining, "A subsistence-farming region losing its cultural identity to globalization and its crops to climate change in a country where half of the population lives on less than \$1.25 is not a Shangri-La."

The film was followed by a slideshow presentation by Boyle of photographs from his trip. Among the photographs of breathtaking panoramas and colorful cave-paintings were scattered snapshots that gave the audience a glimpse into the intimate lives of the vibrant people of the region, as well as into their changing lifestyle. "Crocs are a real favorite among the old, traditional ladies," Boyles joked. He went on to discuss the Westernization of the region, coupled with overgrazing and deforestation, as the "[erosion] of culture and landscape." One of his last pictures depicted an old woman in a traditional outfit standing at the threshold of a house as a youth stands outside it dressed in Western clothes. The two are gazing in opposite directions in a poignant symbolization of the generation gap being experienced in Mustang.

Generation gaps exist everywhere, but can be bridged with shared time and experiences. Whilst Boyles said that rappelling into caves where no one had been for hundreds of years and filming the discovery of ancient artifacts was a "beyond-thrilling and culturally surreal experience," he took care to add that "the best part of the trip was being able spend time working and traveling with my father, who is my biggest hero." Edgar Boyles is currently in Chile working on an anti-dam project on the Rio Baker in Patagonia, but continues to influence his son, who plans to use this anti-dam project in a nonfiction essay he is currently working on that compares rivers to narratives.

Boyles is also allegedly in negotiation with MMC treasurer Pier LaFarge '10.5 to organize a fully funded spring break trip to Nepal next year, which we hope will become a reality so that other students can experience the wonder of the region firsthand.



Courtesy
Two Nepali girls lead Morgan Boyles '12.5 to the caves of Shangri-la.

College introduces first-year tours

By Rafferty Parke
STAFF WRITER

That the College is an environmentally conscious institution is hardly news. Perhaps you've caught wind of our president's recent accolades; maybe you've heard those Jokers poke fun at our endearing need to "go green on the side." If you've set your small footprint on campus, you know that a penchant for sustainability is an indispensable aspect of Middlebury's culture. However, many students go from college visits to commencement without truly learning about the specific initiatives that give the college its reputation. The remedy as proposed by the Student Government Association: show them where the magic happens.

This year, the Environmental Affairs Committee created an informative addendum to the typical introduction to Middlebury: the Sustainability Tour. The tour takes students to the biomass plant, the Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest, the recycling center and the organic garden, educating participants about what goes on at each of these key locations.

"Midd has such a progressive, green campus, but a lot of people graduate without even knowing where the recycling center is," said Kate Lupo '10, director of the committee of eight and originator of the idea.

The first tour was held during training for first-year counselors (FYC) before first-year orientation. About 25 ResLife staff members visited the sites and learned about the develop-

ments taking place. Topics discussed included how the biomass plant actually works, Hillcrest's LEED-certified platinum design (the highest-level environmental certification), how to reduce waste, and Weybridge's use of organic garden plants. Lupo, Coordinator Katie Scott, Director of Sustainability Interigation Jack Byrne, Head of Waste Management Missy Beckwith, Assistant Director of Custodial Services Linda Ross and Manager of the Organic Garden Jay Leshinsky all contributed to the tour. The second tour took place during orientation for the Class of 2013.5; about 10 students participated. Hannah Judge '12.5 of the Environmental Affairs Committee helped to lead the second time around.

Laura Williams '11, an FYC on the first tour, enjoyed being a "guinea pig" for the project and getting a closer look at the school. She especially appreciated learning about the workings of the biomass plant, with impressive features such as the "vast pits" of wood chips and the screens used to constantly monitor the combustion. "It was kind of like Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory," she said with a laugh. While she might have appreciated a more in-depth visit, she was glad to have the knowledge when it came time to introduce Middlebury to the first-year on her hall.

Eric Wilson '13 acknowledged that although he knows of these facilities — "Midd students tend to find their way into the green places" — he has not learned much about the school's environmental endeavors in the seven months since he began his Middlebury career.

Citing the tabletop signs in the dining halls, the "pretty much pervasive" Carbon Neutral by 2016 message, and the central location of the biomass plant, he admitted that the ideas are out there, but when it comes to understanding the actual project, "My education is severely lacking."

The Environmental Affairs Committee hopes to incorporate the tour as a standard component of first-year orientation in September and February as well as the spring preview days for accepted students. Other projects include the recent "Be Bright, Turn Out the Light" stickers in the dorms (funded by the Environmental Council), highlighting student initiatives such as the Solar Decathlon, the aforementioned "Environmental-ity" tips displayed on dining tables, and the week leading up to Earth Day, during which the committee plans to project the Discovery Channel's series "Planet Earth" on dining hall walls.

Lupo encourages students to check out the committee's Facebook page, and for those seeking a bit more involvement, the group meets every other Monday at 8 p.m. in the Spanish house. According to Lupo, the committee wants to be "a creative think tank for student initiatives in the environmental sphere. As a student organization, we hope to invigorate, educate and inspire the student body." With a bit of communication, every graduate will not only be able to take pride in Middlebury's sustainability, but to know just how their fellow students make it happen.

winners



&



losers

April Fools'

Good prank, khall.koltz@gmail.com.

Record high

... temperature, that is.

go/menus

Just do it.

Gus Jordan

How hard can housing really be?

The down-low

Nothing's a secret at this small college.

go/menu

The daily dining hall selection is suddenly way less important.

Student explores Dutch three-parent families

By Ashley Cheung
STAFF WRITER

Although many view Amsterdam as a mecca for queer relationships and untraditional lifestyles, it has become increasingly hard for same-sex partners to start a family since Dutch sperm banks no longer accept anonymous donations and it is no longer legal to have commercial surrogacy. This has led to the formation of three-parent families.

The first Women's and Gender Studies-Chellis House Event of Gaypril 2010 was a talk by Lark Endean Nierenberg '11 on "The State of Queer Families in the Netherlands: Discrepancies Between Intentional and Legal Three-Parent Families." Lark Endean Nierenberg '11, who is joint-majoring in sociology-psychology and minoring in women and gender studies, studied abroad in Amsterdam this fall and completed her gender research project at SIT (School for International Training) and the University of Amsterdam.

The three-parent families Nierenberg interviewed consisted of "two female partners in a relationship and a male who was brought into the relationship for reproductive purposes." Before birth, she explained, all three

adults decided to co-parent and have a lasting relationship as three parents for the child."

However, difficulties arise when trying to define the legal authorities and rights of the three parents. Only the gestational mother and recognized father are awarded legal parental rights, even if the gestational mother carried the other mother's egg so that both partners are biological mothers. If the father is unknown, the non-gestational mother is still only awarded "parental authority," which Nierenberg defined as a "tricky Dutch concept in which the parent gets all the responsibilities but none of the rights of a legal parent." The two mothers in a three-parent family will only have full legal standing if they go through formal court adoption and the father relinquishes his rights. So, what if all three parents want to be intentional parents, but only two people can be legal parents?

The basis of Nierenberg's project came from research by Raewyn Connell, Judith Butler, and Michel Foucault and their theories on marriage, kinship, family and the state's involvement in those institutions. She spoke about the prevailing heteronormativity that functions as a practice of nomination

and legitimization of "the family" as it simultaneously limits and represses individuals and organizations of individuals that fall outside of the hegemonic norms. The results of Nierenberg's research and interviews showed that the main problems faced by three-parent families mostly fell into four categories: definitions of family members, finances, international travel and legal adoption.

Nierenberg, who was excited about connecting her semester abroad to the Middlebury community by sharing her research in this student talk, also shed some light on her personal connections to this project.

"My research seems to stem from a lifelong fascination with the ideologies and realities of the family," said Nierenberg. "I came up with the idea for my project when the first woman to marry a same-sex partner in the Netherlands gave a lecture to my class. Such a theme of difficulty navigating familial legal rights is quite familiar to me."

Nierenberg's family started out as a two-parent family with a mom and a dad, but since she was eight, she has had three parents: her mom, her mom's partner Colleen, and

her dad. While Colleen's social and familial involvement in her life is simple — "we love each other, she's my parent" — negotiating her legal involvement has been more difficult. "Think financial and school forms, for example. It's gotten in the way of things and has felt disadvantaged at times."

Nierenberg feels this is an important subject to share with the Middlebury community for several reasons.

"It's a privilege not to think of court dates after birth dates. These Dutch individuals form a family; they function as such, they love as such, but they are not legally protected as such," she said. "The family" isn't as stable as we assume it to be. It's not this one configuration of individuals, or even a few variations on that. Its structure and significance is continuously developing and changing within societies, as well as simply within individual families, as my own family highlights."

She also spoke about her beliefs that legal protection and privilege should accurately reflect this reality. "The first steps to that are critically thinking about and questioning the social institutions and privileges we take for granted," she said.

Aikido masters master gender neutrality

By Steven Dunmire
STAFF WRITER

"I think gender is disconnected from bodies — it's an institution," said Visiting Assistant Professor of East Asian and Women's and Gender Studies Linda White. White was introducing a discussion on conceptions of gender in the martial arts. The discussion, titled "Takin' It Like a Man: Troubling Gender in Japanese Martial Art," focused on aikido, a primarily defensive martial art studied in Japanese culture.

"It complicates masculinity and femininity," said Assistant Professor of Education Jonathan Miller-Lane, who co-hosted the dialogue with White. Miller-Lane and White, both students of aikido, spent the hour sharing their experiences with the art form as well as their thoughts on how gender influences life "on the mat."

Aikido differs from other styles of martial arts in that it focuses chiefly on defensive techniques instead of offensive maneuvers.

"Aikidoists are famous for having terrible punches," said Miller-Lane. "It attracts people who aren't interested in breaking things." Miller-Lane emphasized the nonvi-

olent nature of aikido, which some choose to refer to as a method of conflict resolution. "In aikido we take what can be termed a confrontation and turn it into a beautiful interaction between two human beings."

White prefers putting the emphasis on human beings rather than men or women.

"Gender varies by culture and varies historically," she explained. "If gender came from nature, it would be equal across cultures." According to White, reducing gender to a dichotomy between exclusively male or exclusively female oversimplifies the reality of how it operates.

"The mat was a place where everyone mixed," said White, recalling her initial experiences with aikido. White, now a first degree black belt, began studying aikido 25 years ago while living in Japan. The sport's gender-neutralizing uniforms, ban on makeup and jewelry and generally silent environment within the *dojo* allowed her to forget about gender while practicing.

"Gender is not the first thing I'm conscious of," she said, referring to her experiences on the mat.

Miller-Lane expressed a rather different

take on the role of gender in the martial art. Currently a second degree black belt, he began studying aikido in Seattle under one of the few female instructors in the United States. To him, gender is both present and vital to the way he experiences aikido.

"It's important that he's a guy," Miller-Lane said in reference to practicing with fellow male students. "To physically explode into another guy — it allows for a different kind of male moment — it's impersonal." For Miller-Lane, overcoming cultural norms of male and female approaches to conflict is an important element of aikido.

"Aikido is a way to make power and compassion in the same moment rather than power and domination," he said, stressing the importance of leaving behind stereotypes of accepted male behavior. He likes that aikido departs from the pattern of males forcing compliance as a means to end conflict. It differs from conventional American sports such as football, which focus on domination rather than cooperation with opponents.

While their personal opinions differ somewhat, both professors believe in the

benefits of aikido for both men and women.

"I can be big in a big way," said White of her time on the mat. For her, the ability to step outside gender is a key component of this martial art.

"It's interesting to learn about," said Avery McNiff '12, in reference to White's ideas. Currently studying performance culture in the U.S., she attended the discussion to get a definition of gender within aikido.

Another student, however, remained more skeptical of the sport's transformative potential.

"I personally think you can never forget your gender," said Alexandra Vasquez '12. "I'm always aware. I'm always different. I'm always present."

"Can we do it as human beings?" answered Miller-Lane when asked if we can truly leave behind gender in aikido. According to him and White, aikido is about changing the dynamic between opponents. The emphasis lies not in power, but in balance and centering oneself with respect to the other person.

So, how do you respond to White's question: "Does gender matter?"

Cooking (not) by the Book

This weekend, my dad came up to Middlebury for a visit. While the purpose of the visit was theoretically to celebrate Easter, it evolved into a kind of restaurant tour of Middlebury and beyond. I managed to avoid the dining halls — starting with dinner on Friday, all the way through dinner on Sunday, which was, in a word, sweet. As I sampled turkey sandwiches from Noonie's, sundried tomato and mushroom pizza at Flatbread, and the Waldorf salad at Black Sheep Bistro, however, I started to think about things that are missing from Proctor that would exponentially enhance the eating experience. Why, for example, is a salad at Black Sheep that much better than a salad at Proctor? The obvious answer to that question, I suppose, is that it's Black Sheep and its professional chefs doing the tossing, but I think it's more than that. There are certain simple ingredients that add the taste and texture that make all the difference. Call this my dining hall wish list, or just one giant unrealistic comment card, but I do think that some of these desires are obtainable and not entirely excessive. So, without further ado, the list:

1. Walnuts. Have you ever noticed the difference that walnuts can make in a salad? They add crunch, they add taste, and they're both healthier and (in my opinion) more delicious than their less sophisticated counterpart, the crouton. While I don't think we're going to see these showing up in Proctor any time soon, I've done some re-

con and you can get them at Midd Express. So I'll be the weird kid carting a bag of walnuts around the dining hall for awhile ...

2. Craisins. Like walnuts, craisins bring both texture and taste to the table (no pun intended). They're delicious on their own, in a salad, in a panini ... think of the value added. Now sigh a little bit.

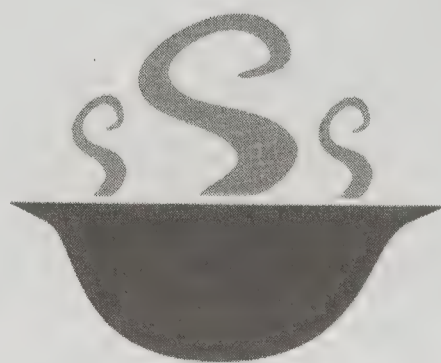
3. More fruit. I was at Villanova over spring break, and while most of their food really couldn't compare to Midd food, they did run circles around us in the fruit category. In addition to your traditional apples, bananas, and oranges, they had fresh sliced cantaloupe and honeydew, and strawberries. Seriously, strawberries. Think of the dessert potential. Word on the street is that occasionally Atwater has melon for breakfast, but it has eluded me thus far. I know that melon is expensive, and not exactly local, but I can dream, right?

4. Avocado. This wish is probably the most outlandish and unrealistic, but I pretty much go gaga for a good avocado. I'll eat it plain, in a sandwich, in a salad, make some guac... the possibilities are almost endless. Again, not exactly local, not exactly cheap. But so, so good.

In this era of budget cuts and local focus, I can recognize

that most of these wishes are unrealistic. And really, Proctor, I've been pretty good at working with you thus far. So I thought I'd take one week just to dream, to ponder the possibility of something more. And maybe, just maybe, Matthew Biette, king of dining halls, will think to himself, "I'd really enjoy some melon while reading this newspaper." Hey, you never know, right? I guess that's what comment cards are all about.

—Maggie Moslander



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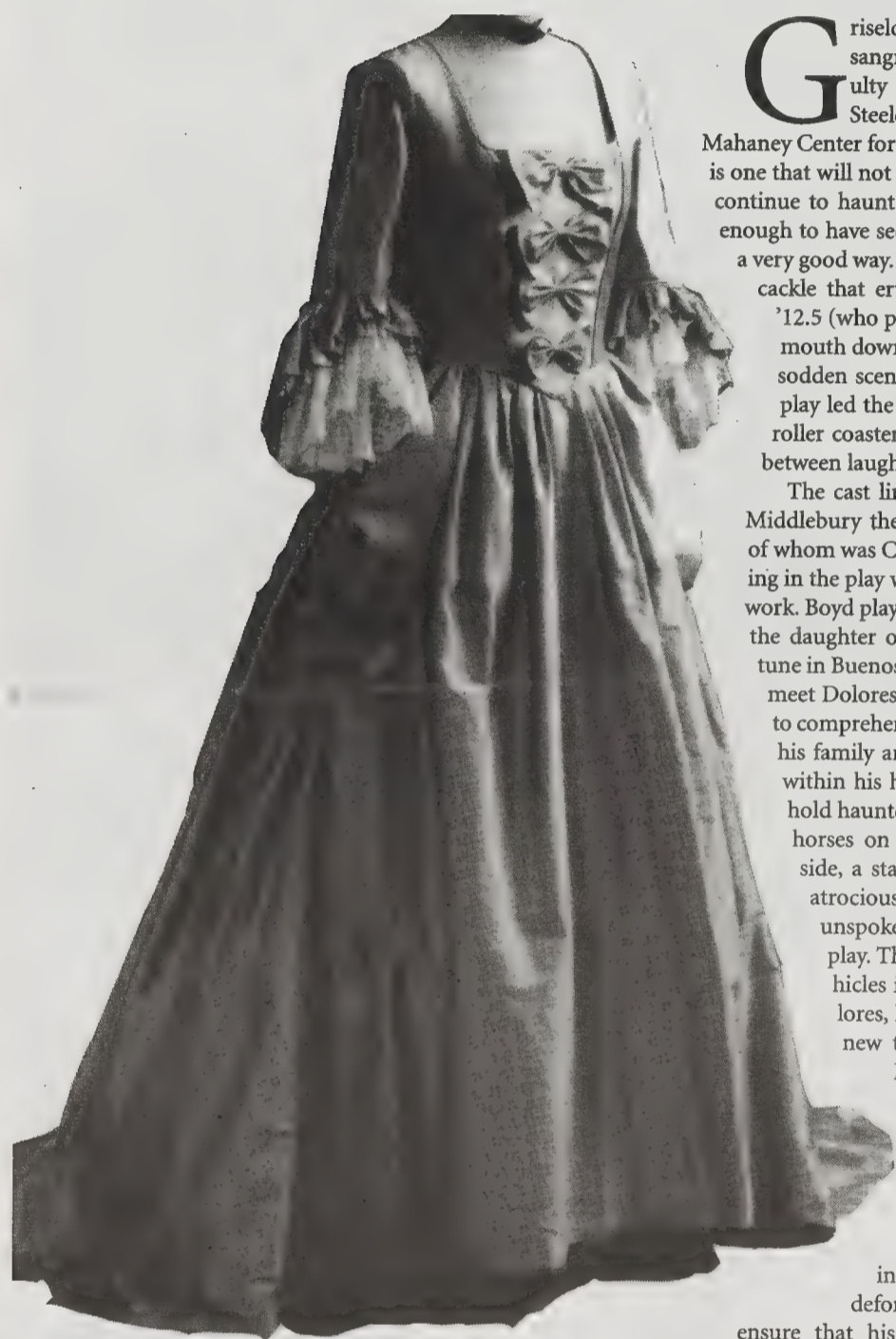
Bill Beck
Real Estate

La "Malasangre" "BAD BLOOD"

faculty show leaves its mark

article by Tamara Hilmes

photos courtesy of Stan Barouh



Griselda Gambaro's "La Malasangre [Bad Blood]," the faculty show that appeared in the Steeler Studio Theater in the Mahaney Center for the Arts (MCEA) last week, is one that will not soon be forgotten — it will continue to haunt those who were fortunate enough to have seen it — and I mean that in a very good way. From the first high-pitched cackle that erupted from Ben Orbison's '12.5 (who played the role of the father) mouth down to the final, eerie, scream-sodden scene, the cast and crew of the play led the audience on a tumultuous roller coaster that constantly fluctuated between laughter and horror.

The cast lineup boasted a number of Middlebury theater veterans not the least of whom was Cassidy Boyd '10, whose acting in the play will count as her Senior 700 work. Boyd played the lead role of Dolores, the daughter of a malicious man of fortune in Buenos Aires circa 1840. When we meet Dolores, she is only just beginning to comprehend her father's tyranny over his family and her own lack of agency within his household. It is a household haunted by passing carts and horses on the cobblestone outside, a stand-in for the father's atrocious deeds that remain unspoken throughout the play. The sound of these vehicles incites terror in Dolores, her mother, and her new tutor. Rafael (Willy McKay '11) is the

unfortunate hunchback whom Dolores' father has selected to be her tutor, in hopes that his deformation will

ensure that his daughter will remain pure so that he can marry her off to a wealthy gentleman caller. But Rafael, with his refreshing moral sense and quick wit, is more than a hunchback, as the audience discovers along with Dolores.

The first act of the play was wrought with charming, Mr. Darcy-and-Elizabeth-type scenes of Boyd and McKay exchanging rather charged words with one another, and Boyd attempting to exert her power as the daughter of fortune over a lowly tutor — she means, as she says, to "make [his] hair turn gray." The charm becomes tainted, however, when Dolores plays the bratty "daddy" card and things take a rather nasty turn. What follows is a highly comical scene in which Dolores'

father both comforts her with baby talk, promising things like new dresses and parties, and at the same time, shouts threats over to Rafael. The hilarity quickly dissipates, however, when Fermin (Brian Clow '13) grabs Rafael and drags him away to be beaten. Though difficult to pull off, the rapid switch in tone was flawlessly executed by Orbison, Boyd and McKay, with help from equally flawless sound and light crews.

Indeed, much of the performance came across as flawless — not a line was dropped, nor a gesture misplaced — and, perhaps most impressively, each of the actors adopted highly convincing and emotive facial expressions. Dolores' guilt is palpable in her pained expression after Rafael returns to teach her the next day, and is unable to sit due to the injuries that he has sustained. But it was Martina Bonolis '10, with her masked wincing and woeful smiles, who won the most sympathy from the audience as the suppressed and abused mother. At one point, Bonolis sank, clutching at her hair with her hands with all torment of one who has suffered more than we can possibly know, slowly and posed like a gothic sculpture. The power that Bonolis brought to the small scene was masterful and made it more moving than any other in the play.

Continued on Page 19



editors' picks

08

West Side Story
McCullough Social Space
8 p.m.

Middlebury College Musical Players will present the timeless musical depicting the cultural rifts of mid-1950s New York City. An impressive cast will depict the fate of two star-crossed lovers, thrust together by fate and torn apart by social prejudices.

08

Beyond Therapy
Hepburn Zoo
8 p.m.

A cast of Theatre Department veterans reinvigorate this farcical comedy of the 1980s. Through satire of psychiatric counsel, this play will explore the challenges of finding stable romance — a theme that Middlebury College students are not unfamiliar with. Tickets are \$4.

09

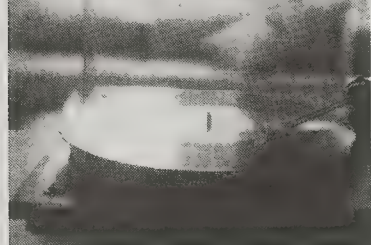
Deconstructing Butter
MCEA Lower Lobby
7 p.m.

A multi-racial cast will offer a staged reading of this controversial piece that draws into question racial and gender stereotypes and expectations. Written by Middlebury alum Rebecca Gilman, the performance is sure to be an eye-opening experience.

10

Lust for Wisdom
Mead Chapel
8 p.m.

Recording artist Ezra Axelrod '08 will return to give students a taste of his North American tour as part of the Gaypril lineup of events. His music is infused with themes of homosexuality and desire. Middlebury friends and mentors of the artist will also appear.

FOR THE
record

by Dickie Redmond
Artist | The Morning Benders
Album | "Big Echo"

On The Morning Benders' most popular YouTube video, front man Christopher Chu, claims that, on the track "Excuses," he was going for a Phil Spector, Wall of Sound style. So, in the video, The Morning Benders gather fellow San Franciscans — about 50, no joke — to record the song. I'm a sucker for watching musicians collaborate in large groups, but I definitely think the video is worth six minutes of your time.

The recorded track, "Excuses," clearly draws upon feelings of the distant past, or at least ideas of what the past must have been like. The love song is an acoustic-guitar driven pop tune that is aided by the sweet highs and lows of a violin accompaniment, the bone-chilling jangling of a muted piano and complex percussion. Indeed, the song can easily be classified as orchestral fuzziness, or, to be even more exact, as Wall of Sound — hazy, poppy, big and loud! And Chu's proper, heartfelt lyrics do even more to evoke the good ol' days in a way similar to Dr. Dog's Leaman and McMicken.

This stylistic haziness — an ever-present disorienting fog that recalls an earlier time — finds its way onto most of "Big Echo." To maintain this sound, the band calls on Chris Taylor from Grizzly Bear to help with production. At times, the album clearly resembles Grizzly Bear with its chamber pop style and that guitar effect — the dissonant, piercing screech that demands attention and drives a song from movement to movement.

Take, for example, "Hand Me Downs." From the opening guitar strums, I can't help but be reminded of Grizzly Bear's "While You Wait for the Others." At once disruptive and intrusive, the guitar mellow to a gentle melodic riff, which shows off the dynamic mood swings that The Morning Benders can achieve. And the end of the song, which builds to epic vocal and instrumental chaos, further demonstrates the band's songwriting talent.

"Pleasure Sighs" is further evidence of The Morning Benders' ability to change direction in the middle of a song. It's as if the band is unafraid to pause, let the music fade, and then move to a new progression. Again, The Morning Benders draw attention to their craftiness, as big instruments and bewildering background vocals take over the previously tranquil riffs.

Other songs are more simply constructed. For example, "Cold War" is an upbeat pop tune that is driven by bouncy acoustic guitar strumming and hand claps. The song, at less than two minutes, is refreshing as Chu sings: "The worst is over." "All Day Day Light" is another instance of catchy songwriting making its way onto "Big Echo." This time, the pop is driven by melodic electric guitar riffs, which explode into fuzziness with the chorus.

Despite having a recognizable Grizzly Bear influence, The Morning Benders are able to create their own identity. The lead vocals are delivered differently, taking the front-seat on many songs. On "Stitches," for instance, it seems that the vocals are attempting to escape from the overbearing Wall of Sound, declaring: "You don't know me by name." And Grizzly Bear would never release a song as straight forward as "Cold War." I appreciate these simpler, less complex bouts, and I think they help make "Big Echo" a great album.

'Wonder of the World' wows audiences

By Cathy Ahearn
STAFF WRITER

As a hilarious investigation of some very earnest and relatable troubles, "Wonder of the World," a play by David Lindsay-Abaire and the senior work of Christine Chung '10 and Oscar Loyo '10, is able to pose emotionally probing situations and questions ("Has your house ever been so quiet you thought you might stop breathing?") in a playful script filled with pithy dialogue and side-bending non-sequiturs.

The play doesn't spare a second, throwing its audience into a strong scene between the work's capricious heroine, Cass, played by Chung, and her unfortunately normal husband Kip, played by Greg Selover '10. In minutes the scene paints an image of the most normal of marriages, substantiated by clichés of happy marital life: flower shows in Westchester, a George Foreman grille. Selover's movingly desperate portrait of a man who has come home for lunch only to find that his wife is leaving him was matched only by Chung's whimsical cruelty. Cass oozes the excitement of someone who has just been liberated from a state of attentive blindness and has awoken wide-eyed through the jarring shock of a traumatic discovery.

Minutes into the play, with the looming mystery of why she is leaving her husband, Cass has pushed through the end of her old life to embark on a new one and boards a bus from Brooklyn to Niagara Falls. Hoping to make a dent in her life's checklist of 200 things she has always wanted to do — learn Swedish, sleep with a stranger, get a sidekick — Cass meets Lois, her perfect counterpart no matter how you spin it. While Cass is full of excitement to explore a new world, Lois is suicidal, planning to throw herself over the falls in a pickle barrel. While Cass bursts with excitement at every passing road sign, Lois sits in a drunken stupor. Cass has just left her husband; while Lois' husband has just left her. Catherine Lidstone '10 did a wonderful job at delivering the honestly cynical and flat

one-liners that made the audience love Lois maybe even more than they loved Cass.

When the mystery of Kip's secret is finally unveiled, it does not disappoint. Any woman who finds out that her husband has been swallowing Barbie doll heads for sexual pleasure can't be blamed for hopping on the next bus to absolutely anywhere. Clean-cut Kip is not so wholesome and you can't help but think, what else is hiding in the sweater drawer? The play continues to spin its eccentric web in the second act, already having proved that anything is possible.

Cass and Lois run into their fair share of situations (a helicopter ride, and a dangerous encounter with Niagara falls, to name a few) and people that lead Cass to the painfully clichéd ending of a quirky, offbeat production. If anything was disappointing about this play, it was not found in the actors but in the script itself. Cass struggles with her own carefree attitude leaving the audience unconvinced and even irritated by her blithe self-absorption. Life cannot be lived according to a checklist, sure, but the audience was hoping for more.

Despite a problematic fog machine (smoke detectors, a fire alarm) the crew's

ability to mold the stage was impressive and relied upon sensory engagement through the creatively masterful use of set, sound and lighting. The actors worked well together to fuse personalities and concepts into a dark comedy that, although lacking in answers, dared to question the comfortable standards of quotidian life.



John Kim

The strong cast of "Wonder of the World" was able to surpass a weak script.



John Kim

"Wonder of the World" impressed patrons in the Hepburn Zoo over the weekend of April 2-4.

Artist pursues 'sight' in public art

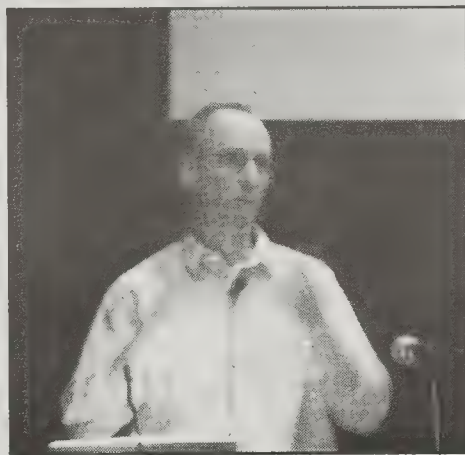
By Amanda Pertierra
STAFF WRITER

Apparently Homer liked coining his share of pithy phrases: every morning (there were 20 of them in "The Odyssey" alone) is a "rosy-fingered Dawn." What exactly that means is left to the reader's interpretation. Enter Spencer Finch, the artist who gave this year's Committee on the Arts in Public Places lecture on April 1.

"I know it sounds totally corny, but I had this weird compulsion to see what Achilles saw," Finch told his audience. "I had a lot of bad ideas over the course of five to six years — most of them involved shields — then it occurred to me that the sky hasn't changed."

What followed was an odyssey of his own to the exact place in the Aegean where Troy is reputed to have stood. Using a colorimeter — for the not so knowledgeable, that's a device that measures wavelengths of light — Finch was able to preserve the exact shade of dawn the characters of Homer's tales would have encountered. Their eyes had seen, and now visitors to his shows and galleries would see too.

"What you see is what you see, according



Darcy Mullen

On Thursday, April 1, Spencer Finch shared his fascination and pursuit of sight.

to a dictum of art, 1960s style," Middlebury College Museum of Art Chief Curator Emme Donadio said as she introduced him at the lecture. "What it means, or what it feels — these are what he pursues."

In short, Finch's art is a pursuit of sight, in the purest manifestations of the term. He shared some of his results in a series of slides, most of them not quite what they seemed, and many poking and probing at basic philosophical questions.

A group of oval canvases, various shades of grey, turned out to be a glimpse at what Freud's patients must have seen as they were psychoanalyzed in a Vienna study. Dozens of swatches, in myriad shades of pink, made up an exhibit titled "Trying to remember the color of Jackie Kennedy's pill-box hat." You know the one. Yet another combines Vladimir Nabokov's ideas about a color assigned to each letter of the alphabet in his memoir, "Speak, Memory," with a meditation on Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle.

"It sounds pretty pretentious," Finch said. "If anyone else tried it, I'd be appalled. Heisenberg describes relativity. When you observe something, you change it. The concept fascinates me."

Finch changed 9,251 characters of Heisenberg's text, transliterating them according to Nabokov's colored alphabet. His product is a vast wall of multi-colored dots.

His exploration of color and light has not remained static. A recent work capturing Thoreau's Walden Pond with bits of Monet's many studies of water is rendered more interesting by the fact that the artist was known to butt heads with French impressionism in graduate school.

"I always thought Monet was sort of saccharine and boring," he said. "My friends dared me to try copying one of his works, if it was so easy. I painted under protest. I wanted to criticize, but I ended up falling in love. As a kind of homage I traveled to Rouen to paint

the famous cathedrals, but when I got there the whole thing was covered in scaffolding."

There doesn't seem to be a working definition of public art, other than that it is in some way (surprise, surprise) public. For one project, Finch spent 700 minutes on a tugboat taking 700 pictures of the Hudson River. He took pixels from these photos and converted the colors into glass panes, which were placed in windows along New York City's High Line, a park built along a section of old elevated railway tracks. Taken together, the windows record the metamorphosis of the Hudson over the course of one day.

A pending project features public art on a massive scale, as Finch collaborates with the Johns Hopkins Hospital to install entire walls of colored glass on the building's exterior.

Like many other modern artists, Finch struggles to determine just how much context should be given to his work.

"It's something that has bedeviled me for years," he said. "I'd love it if people could approach my pieces as abstractions first, then have chips delivered to their brains telling them it is actually something else later. I do think pieces should be strong enough to stand up for themselves."

He is sure a current project will be met with confusion. Finch is flooding one floor of a French gallery and building a bridge that will move visitors along the different phases of the moon. Minimalist in style, it seems self-explanatory — bridge, stars, watery depths — but each detail has been obsessed over. The height of each bridge post has been considered; when all posts are even the exhibit seems flat, but when they are all uneven it seems cartoonish.

At any rate, he is excited.

"I know it may not be too popular," Finch said. "I love it — am I allowed to say that?"

The same could be said for each work detailed in the lecture.

Senior work 'Bad Blood' impresses all

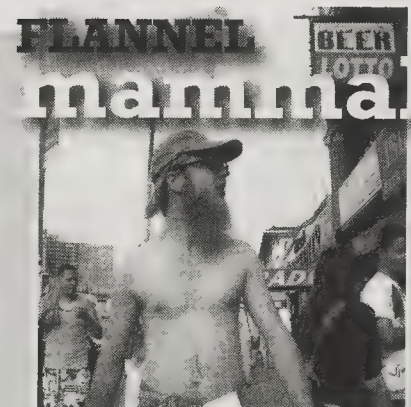
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Act Two brought a change in set (a grand piano was placed beneath the glowing chandelier, and a sofa now graced the imitation parquet flooring), as well as a change in scene. No longer was the audience privy to the gradually growing romance between Rafael and Dolores; instead, we were invited to view the inner-workings of an arranged marriage. Now awkward laughter was added to the mix of cackling and the shouting from Act One, as the terribly oblivious yet sleazy John Peter Paradise (Nathaniel Rothrock '13) was forced (and forced himself) upon the enlightened, no-longer-bratty Dolores, who has eyes only for "her hunchback."

Elements of the grotesque, such as the red light that served as a reminder of the blood that was being spilled off-stage, and the dead birds that Fermin carried in, helped wind the play down to its final, shrill scene. "La Mala-sangre" came to a close amid the incessant sobbing, shrieking, shouting and screaming that one would expect from a play written to allegorically reflect the right-wing repression led by the military junta in Argentina during the '70s and '80s, a time full of violence and unspoken terror. With the help of Professor of Theatre and the play's director, Claudio Medeiros, and the rest of the cast and crew, Bonolis, Orbison, McKay and Boyd managed to draw their Middlebury audience into the horrors that Gambaro captured so intensely in her socio-political piece.



Courtesy of Stan Barouh
Boyd '10 overcame a difficult piece for her senior work.



by Philippe Bronchtein

Oh, Spring! Look who decided to finally show up!

It's no secret that everybody loves spring. The sun feels so good on my pastel skin, washing over my pallid, cold soul with a tsunami of rapture and vitamin D. Even better than the rebirth of my arctic soul is all the gorgeous sundresses that the ladies like to take for walks. Why are sundresses so awesome?

Three main reasons:

1. Legs are awesome.
2. Dresses are pretty.
3. Dresses make a splendid lady that much more wonderful.

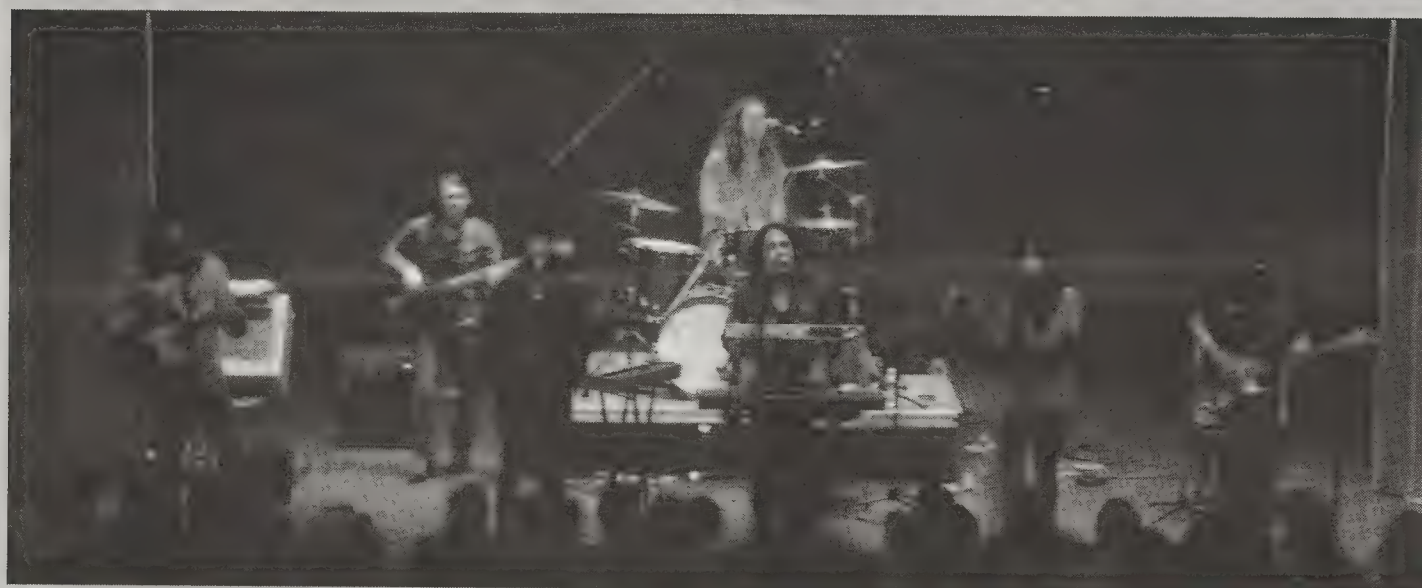
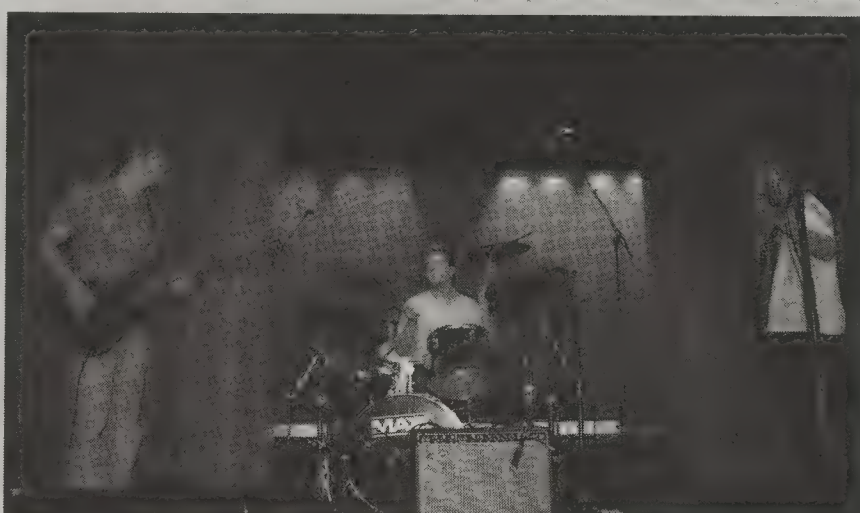
I don't consider myself to be a jealous person, but I am enormously upset with the lack of a male equivalent to the sundress. Tank tops come close to being the equivalent, but they are not nearly as prevalent or common as the sundress. It seems as if though, once it gets nice out, all the dudes at Middlebury have to offer is some crocs, cargo shorts, and the occasional tank top. I don't mean this as a reproach. I myself own only one pair of shorts. In an effort towards gender equality, here are some suggestions for how the men of Middlebury College can look as good as the ladies this spring.

Suggestion 1: Re-sexualize the male leg. Short shorts are awesome. I don't know how many dudes out there actually own a pair, but the aforementioned pair of shorts that I own happen to be a pair of purple corduroy cutoffs, with pockets longer than the shorts themselves. I don't squat hundreds of pounds a week for nothing. The male leg is a body part that should be revered and admired. So, this spring, take your least favorite pair of pants, cut them hilariously short, and let those juicy quads of yours breathe, for once. It's 2010 and it's time to re-sexualize the male leg.

Suggestion 2: Don't wear a shirt. Shirts are stupid. Let's be frank, nothing a dude can ever wear will ever be as pretty as a sundress. So let's just step it down to the next best thing — being naked. Not wearing a shirt feels awesome and looks awesome. Not only that, but it's incredibly practical, too! Unlike the majority of my T-shirts, my skin is waterproof. Cool. Not wearing a shirt also facilitates getting an even tan. The less you wear your shirt, the better your tan is, and the better your tan is, the prettier you are.

Even when it's night time, wearing a shirt can be confining and uncomfortable. Here's a quick fix to that problem — wear a beanie at night to keep your body heat in. It's as good looking as it is practical.

Suggestion 3: Wear what you want. The best thing about springtime is the universal decision for everyone to be psyched again. The sun comes out and immediately drives all of us out of our depressing, messy rooms and into the glory of our burning star. It's important to reflect that optimism and positivity in whatever outfits you decide to wear. We're all young and beautiful and it's important to embrace that; spring clothing just makes it that much easier. Wear whatever clothing is going to make you the best possible person to spend time with. How it actually looks is completely irrelevant. It's all about being comfortable enough to enjoy this awesome weather.



Courtesy

SEPOMANA 2010

WRMC's Sepomana featured the bands The Phenomenal Handclap Band, Future Islands, The Banjees and Theophilus London in the McCullough Social Space on April 2. This year's Sepomana brought in more crowds than previous years, especially for the concert featuring The Phenomenal Handclap Band.

THE REEL CRITIC



by Brad Becker-Parton

MOVIE | Greenburg
DIRECTOR | Noah Baumbach
STARRING | Ben Stiller

A writer and director definitely not known for creating escapist cinema, Noah Baumbach ("The Squid and the Whale," "Margot at the Wedding") presents his most recent low-affect production. High in quick dialogue and low in life-outlook, as all Baumbach films are, Greenberg succeeds in leaving two generations of viewers doubtful of their personal happiness.

The film opens on Florence, a 20-something personal assistant to a rich Los Angeles family. At first, it seems she has her life in order and will serve as a foil to the typical dysfunctional Baumbach

character. However, this is shortly proven incorrect after she engages in a regrettable one-night stand and is left searching for emotional connections. Enter Roger Greenberg, a 40-year-old who has decided to "do nothing for a while" by inhabiting his brother's mansion and taking care of his dog.

Greenberg, played by Ben Stiller, in his "Bill Murray in 'Lost in Translation'" attempt at a new career path, plays the character in an entirely unlikely fashion. Potentially a directorial decision, Greenberg is a character that spends the movie proclaiming his desire to do nothing and succeeds in doing just that. The only change we see is a small sense of regret about his past as a musician and not taking opportunities given to him, which eventually is rendered inconsequential by his refusal to change.

The highlight of the film is the acting performance of Greta Gerwig, who plays Florence. By far the most interesting character in the film, Gerwig takes over every scene she's in with a combination of an indie-darling aloofness and a far more foreboding look on her face, as if she knows she is unable to prevent herself from making poor decisions. The emotional crux of the film is watching Greenberg constantly take Florence for granted and the tragedy in Florence's instance to forgive him. After watching Greenberg's unconvincing emotional journey, it's hard to

believe that the film's ending, Florence and Greenberg giving it another try, is going to have a happy resolution, though Baumbach leaves us without an answer in that regard.

The film's other plot, Greenberg's consistently frustrating friendship rekindling with old band mate Ivan (Rhys Ifans) often feels like filler, though the chemistry between Stiller and Ifans is impressive and entertaining. Often, this story seems like a tool to blatantly outline the conflict of the film, which then leaves its emotional resolution mostly unearned.

The film's grainy indie aesthetic and original soundtrack by James Murphy (LCD Soundsystem) serves the plot well but doesn't do anything particularly innovative or risky for a Baumbach film.

The film is at its best in small-scale, dialogue-driven scenes between Greenberg and Florence rather than, for example, the absurd party scene, which, while watching a coke-fueled Greenberg hassle drunk teenagers, begs the question: what is more unbearable than a sober Roger Greenberg?

Ultimately, though not always enjoyably, the film succeeds in creating compelling characters and situations, and it even manages to provide an interesting commentary on the outlook of an aging generation of hipsters and the over-romanticized concept of doing nothing.



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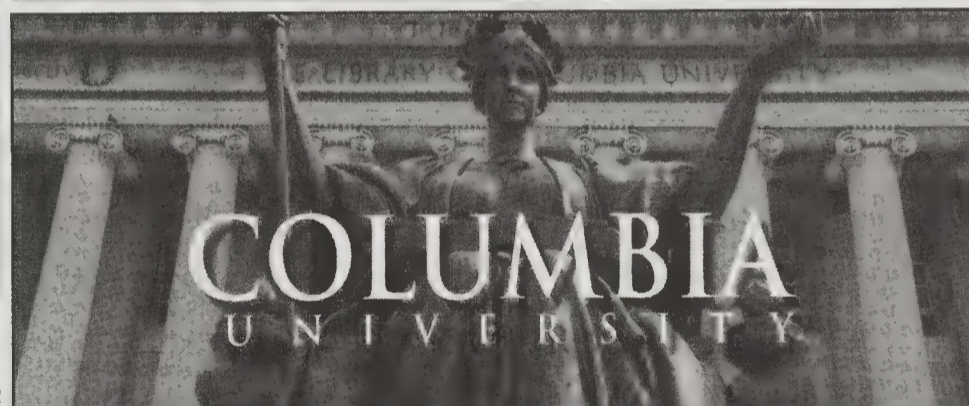
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Track and field takes second and third at home

By Dana Callahan
STAFF WRITER

Just one week after returning from a Spring training trip to San Diego, the Middlebury men's and women's track and field teams began their seasons at home last Saturday. Competing against Bowdoin, Springfield and UVM, the Middlebury women placed second overall, while the men placed third.

The Middlebury women opened the meet with multiple individual wins. Amanda Lee '11 easily won the 3,000-meter steeplechase, with a time of 11:24.19 — a full 22 seconds ahead of her nearest competitor.

Another highlight of the meet was the women's 1,500m run, in which Cailey Condit '11, Rebecca Fanning '12 and Chelsea Ward-Waller '12 took first, second, and third, respectively, with Condit posting a time of 4:55.85.

First-years Emily Dodge '13 and Christine Walsh '13 also garnered points for the women's team; Dodge placed second in the 100m hurdles with a time of 15.93, while Walsh took second with a time of 16.54. Dodge also placed third in the long jump,

with a jump of 5.08m. The open 800m run was also a strong event for the women's team. Kaitlyn Saldanha '11 won the event in 2:20.95, with Sarah O'Brien '13 following in third with a time of 2:23.51.

The women saw success in the 400m hurdles as well. Laura Dalton '13 took first in 1:05.77, Alice Wisener '11 placed second with a time of 1:06.60 and Katy Magill '12 ran a 1:08.79 to take third.

The Middlebury women also took the top two spots in the 5000m run. Claire McIlvennie '12 ran the distance in 18:52.32 to take first, while Marge Cramer '12 took second with a time of 19:02.68. In the field events, Elizabeth Faust '11 took first in the high jump, with a jump of 1.52m, and Danielle Baker '13 placed third in the pole vault, clearing 2.96m.

The women ended the meet on a strong note, with the 4x400m relay team of Anjuli Demers '10, Juliet Ryan-Davis '13, Dalton and Fanning taking first with a time of 4:02.55.

On the men's side, the 4x100m relay team of James Huth '12, John Montroy '12,

Jason Jan '12 and Micah Wood '10 placed second with a time of 44.06. Montroy also captured additional points for the men with his first-place race in the 110m hurdles, where he posted a time of 15.64. Stu Fram '13 scored for Middlebury in the same event, placed second to Montroy with a time of 16.04.

A highlight of the meet for the men was the 800m run. Addison Godine '11.5 took first, running a 1:57.73. Mike Waters '10 followed close behind in second place with a time of 1:57.84, and Connor Wood '11 ran a 1:59.42 to take third.

Jack Davies '13 was Middlebury's top performer in the 5,000m run, placing second with a time of 15:56.54. Also scoring for the men's side was the 4x400m relay team of Micah Wood, Connor Wood, Godine and Waters, which placed second with a time of 3:23.03.

Top performers in the field events included Ken LeStrange '12, who placed fourth in the hammer throw with a throw of 40.99m, and Marc Delaney '12, who took third in the shot put with a throw of 12.04m.

Although the teams posted a number

of strong performances, some athletes were not content with their races on Saturday. Steeplechaser Amanda Lee '11 notes, however, that slower performances were likely a result of the race conditions and the proximity of the training trip to the race.

"The whole team put in a lot of good work in San Diego and people turned in some great performances at both of the meets out there," said Lee. "I know some people weren't satisfied with how they competed on Saturday, but I think a lot of that is just some lingering fatigue from the huge training week we had in San Diego."

"It was a great day overall," added assistant track and field coach Nicole Wilkerson. "Some people had season bests, others did not but competed well, which was important because it was a scored meet. We're looking forward to better performances over the next two weeks as we head into the NESCAC Championship meet."

With several members of the team close to hitting Nationals qualifying marks, the next few meets leading up to NESCACs should prove to be an exciting time for the men and women.

PANTHER SCOREBOARD				
Date	Sport	Vs.	Results	Comments
4/02 4/03	Softball	Amherst	4-0 W 8-2 W 3-0 L	The Panthers displayed strong pitching on the weekend, led by Geena Constantine's '11 two-hit shutout in the opener.
4/03	Women's lacrosse	Colby	11-10 L (OT)	While the team scraped and clawed its way to a tie at the end of regulation, it could not convert the effort into a win.
4/02 4/03	Men's tennis	Tufts Bates	9-0 W 8-1 W	The kings of D-III tennis had little trouble dispatching NESCAC opponents during their road trip this past weekend.
4/02 4/03	Baseball	Wesleyan	7-6 L 10-2 L 7-2 W	The team proved resilient to its earlier two losses in Saturday's nightcap, and pulled off a solid victory in the series finale.
4/03	Men's lacrosse	Colby	9-8 L	Dropping a game to Colby for just the second time in 13 years, the Panthers fell to .500 in the conference.

BY THE NUMBERS	
2	Number of one-goal losses for the men's lacrosse team
1	National ranking for men's tennis
4	Number of stolen bases for Erich Enns '10 out of five attempts this season.
1	Place Middlebury men's Ultimate Frisbee achieved at the Yale Tournament last weekend.
2	Number of track meets before the NESCAC meet. So soon!

Editors' Picks				
Questions	Alyssa O'Gallagher	Emma Gardner	Katie Siegner	Kevin Carpenter
Will the women's lacrosse team beat Bowdoin on Saturday?	NO Sorry girls.	YES Go Cathy Go!	YES We're losing to Maine teams now? What is this? It stops here.	YES They are out for blood after that OT loss.
Which men's lacrosse player will score the most goals against Bowdoin on Saturday?	DAVID HILD '11 Shreds threads.	PETE SMITH '10 I have to go with a senior for this one, because I don't know what else to do.	DAVID HILD '11 He seems like he has that goal-scoring mentality. I think the flowing blonde locks help.	ANDREW CONNER '11 The kid knows how to put them away.
How many games will men's tennis drop between its Trinity and Wesleyan matches this weekend?	NONE They're beasts.	NONE They're number one, baby!	ONE Like their current national rank. I'm used to expecting near-perfection from this team.	TWO This is completely arbitrary.
Will the red-hot Bucks top the Celtics in Milwaukee on Saturday?	YES Boston sucks.	YES I concur with Alyssa.	YES They're red hot, apparently, and playing at home. I'm trying to pick rationally here, so they better not let me down.	YES Bucks have been really good lately. I'll be rocking my 1990s snapback in their honor.
Will the Yankees take at least two out of three games against Tampa Bay this weekend?	YES Derek Jeter.	NO I don't know, just spicing things up.	NO Eff that.	YES Sure. Whatever.
Career Record	47-40 (.540)	72-89 (.452)	35-53 (.398)	48-47 (.505)

Panthers drop to .500 in NESCAC standings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

regulation. Colby had control of the ball in the final moments of the game, but Middlebury prevented them from having any good scoring chances.

"We picked up our game at a crucial point in the game," said Delano. "The offense really came together to generate and convert good scoring chances. We put our best effort out there to take it into overtime."

The overtime consisted of two three-minute periods. Colby struck first, ending the first overtime period with a 1-0 lead. First-year Margaret Souther answered for the Panthers in the second overtime period, bringing the score to a 1-1 tie. However, Colby's Amy Campell scored her fifth of the game and second of the overtime to give Colby a 2-1 lead with just 24 seconds remaining in the overtime.

Juniors Delano and Ryan paced the Panthers with three goals apiece, with first-years Colbert and Souther following close behind with two each. First-year Heather Marrison '13 added a notable four ground balls and caused two turnovers. Lily Nguyen '12 turned in another great performance for Middlebury, finishing with nine saves in goal.

With the loss, the Panthers fell to 4-3 overall on the season, and 2-2 in the NESCAC.

Middlebury will take the field next in an away game against NESCAC competitor Bowdoin College. The Panthers will face the Polar Bears at 12:00 PM on April 10.



Andrew Podrygula, Photo Editor

Sally Ryan '11 fires the ball past the Mules' goalie, one of three scores for the forward on the day in the Panthers' 9-8 overtime loss to Colby.

Men's lacrosse can't catch Mules in last-minute loss

By Jeb Burchenal

STAFF WRITER

The men's lacrosse team accrued an impressive 4-0 start that included big wins over Wesleyan, ranked 10th a year ago, and Washington and Lee, who finished last season ranked sixth. Having proven they could blow away the bad teams and win close ones over good teams, the Panthers were excited for battles against NESCAC rivals and up-and-coming programs Connecticut College and Colby.

The game against Connecticut College was a battle to be the last undefeated NESCAC team. The Camels' 5-0 start was their best start in years, especially considering that the team only won six total games last year.

The first half went according to the historical script. Middlebury jumped out to a quick 3-1 lead on goals from Chris Teves '10, Alex Englert '12 and Jack Balaban '11. After exchanging two goals a side, Conn. College drew within one with 15 seconds remaining in the first half.

Net minder Ryan Deane '11.5 kept up his great form from the first four games and recorded six saves to four goals against in the first half. The script says the Panthers, with all their big-game experience, should have come out and opened up a lead right out of the gates, but letting opponents like this stick around always increases their confidence.

The Camels came out of the half fired up. Nine minutes into the second half, Conn. College finally translated that confidence into two quick goals. Though the Panthers were able to re-tie the game on a goal from Andrew Conner '11, the momentum had obviously shifted toward the Camels. After exchanging goals in the final period to create the fourth and final tie of the game, the Camels sealed their victory on a goal with two minutes remaining.

What had been some of the keys to Middlebury's early success — staunch goal tending and efficient face-offs — eluded them in this match. Deane only managed one save in the second half, compared to four goals. Face-off guru Brian Foster '13 was held to only 6-18 at the cross. The Panthers also failed to convert on two late extra-man opportunities in the

fourth quarter. These little things, often overlooked by a casual observer, decide these close games; usually, though, Middlebury is on the right side of them.

The Panthers traveled to Maine last Saturday looking to avenge their first loss of the season against an upstart Colby team. While the Mules were 4-3 heading into the NESCAC matchup, they had lost those three games by a combined three goals and had finally won a close game, 8-7 in OT against Trinity the game before.

Middlebury, which has only lost to Colby once in the past 13 years, was instantly reminded of the ever-improving parity in NESCAC lacrosse as Colby scored a mere six seconds into the contest. After exchanging two goals per

side in the first quarter, Colby first-year John Jennings tallied three times in the second quarter to push the Mule lead to 6-2 at the half.

The details said it all. Again, the Panthers were out-shot 15-12, made fewer saves (5-4), were out-hustled on ground balls (18-16) and beat-up in the face-off circle, winning only two of 10 face-offs. The Panthers were lucky to be within four after an abysmal start, but good teams fight back.

After a Colby score pushed the lead to 7-2, Pete Smith '10, David Hild '11 and Erich Pfeffer '13 scored to pull the Panthers within two. An extra-strength goal, just before the close of the third quarter, and a quick tally in the fourth again pushed the Colby lead to four, but the Panthers were not done. Bart Witmer

'10 scored his second goal of the season and Balaban, who has posted an impressive eight points in six games in his first season as a starter, added two quick ones to pull the Panthers within one.

But the comeback ran out of steam.

The Panthers again failed to convert a fourth quarter extra-man opportunity and did not win the face-off, ground ball or save battle in any individual quarter, let alone the game. The Panthers have shown they can score and defend, but the question now becomes, can they do the little things?

If they hope to beat Bowdoin, reigning NESCAC semifinalist, this Saturday at home, the answer to that question needs to be a resounding yes.

Men's rugby falls to Ivy League foe

By Andrew Silver

STAFF WRITER

In its final exhibition game before the D-III national tournament, the injury-plagued Middlebury College Rugby Club (MCRC) lost to the D-I Harvard Crimson Tide by a final score of 20-12 on Harvard's home turf.

The Panthers never gained the lead, as the Crimson was able to control the game through strategic kicking that kept Middlebury's scoring unusually low while doing just enough on offense to secure victory.

However, the Panthers remained competitive throughout the game with strong defense themselves, a great sign considering the multitude of injuries affecting the team. More importantly, the team remains enthusiastic going into the all-important national tournament.

"We are still very confident going into Nationals," said Geoff Kalan '12, one of

the injured regulars.

The Panthers had four new starters in their opening lineup, including first-year Febs Ben Stasiak '13.5, Allan Stafford '13.5 and Jeb Norton '13.5, as well as Tom Campanella '12, all playing for injured regulars Kalan, Chris Marshall '11, Andrew Durfee '11, Zach Withers '11 and Andrew Jones '12, three of whom make up the starting backfield for the Panthers.

The first-time starters... showed the poise, composure and skill of much more experienced players.

—Rowan Kelner '12

"Playing competitive games against premier Division I teams, and the experience that the new guys got this weekend, will be valuable in Florida," Kalan said of the fresh faces to the starting lineup.

"The first-time starters really stepped up to the plate and delivered," added for-

wards captain Rowan Kelner '12. "They showed the poise, composure and skill of much more experienced players."

"The team responded really well to a lot of injuries in our backline," said Danny Powers '11. "A lot of new Febs filled in and adapted to the game effectively. We just made some superficial errors in the game."

The next time the Panthers take the field will be in Florida, where the first two rounds of the national tournament are held.

There, every game will count, as Middlebury will compete for its third D-III national championship trophy in the past four years.

Despite the loss, the Panthers' final exhibition game was a valuable experience for them to build off of, as the team showed it could still compete with the best while hurt.

Furthermore, the young, fresh faces assured coaches and players alike that they will be more than competent to fill in if needed come tournament time.

Men's tennis trounces opposition

Men's tennis ranked #1 in the nation

By Will Siltan
STAFF WRITER

Middlebury men's tennis has been on the grind of late, racking up multiple victories in the past couple weeks to earn a well-justified number one national ranking. Much of the team's success stems from talented senior leadership, as five of the six seniors captain the team.

After an exhibition win over Glendale and despite an initial National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) loss against Azusa Pacific (CA) — which was riding its longest winning streak in three years — Middlebury made its biggest national splash of the season by flooring last year's number-one ranked team, UC Santa Cruz, over its Spring Break trip to California. The Panthers entered the trip ranked fourth in the nation.

Coach Schwarz's squad lost just one close match in the key victory. After doubles play, Middlebury held just a 2-1 victory but started to pull away with a momentum-swinging, come-from-behind victory by co-captain Andrew Thomson '10.

Thomson won consecutive sets 6-0, 6-0 after dropping his first. Co-captain Peter Odell '10 followed with a 7-5, 6-4 victory to give the Panthers a 5-1 lead.

From then on, Middlebury swept the rest of the singles matches, including notably dominant triumphs by #1 singles player Andrew Peters '11 and co-captain and #2 Andrew Lee '10 en route to an 8-1 victory.

The Panthers followed up the UCSC victory with a 7-2 win over Redlands and another tough NAIA match, which ended in a 7-2 defeat against Vanguard. They completed the trip with an 8-1 victory over Pomona-Pitzer, a 7-2 exhibition triumph over Cerritos, and another 7-2 domination of Claremont. In this last match, #3 singles player Conrad Olson '10 sealed it with 6-2, 6-2 victories as the Panthers won five of six singles matches.

Middlebury returned with a 7-2 record and a #1 Division III ranking in the March 30 national poll.

Upon returning from the trip, Thomson was pleased with the results but wary of the pitfalls of becoming complacent.

"Our team is not looking to let up, even after such a solid trip," said Thomson. "We are still going to focus on one match at a time and bring it every day to practice."

His attitude is certainly one shared by the rest of the team, as Middlebury continued its impressive performance with 9-0 and 8-1 NESCAC road victories over Tufts and Bates, respectively, last weekend at Bates.

The Jumbos were quite a pushover as the Panthers won a quick two of three doubles

matches and dominated in five of six singles matches in straight sets.

Alec Parower '13 posted a remarkably hard-fought 6-2, 6-4 victory over Tufts junior Tony Carucci in the longest match of the day. Middlebury improved to 8-2 as Tufts dropped to 3-3.

Bates, ranked 29th in the country, provided a tougher test for Middlebury, but hardly pressured the Panthers over the course of the day.

Top doubles team Thomson and Lee maintained winning form, as did pairs Olson and co-captain Eliot Jia '10 and Peters and Eric Vehovec '12. Peters, Lee, Olson, Odell and Jia all posted victories in singles play. Bates dropped to 6-3 overall as Middlebury improved to a NESCAC-leading 9-2.

The Panthers visit Trinity and Wesleyan this weekend.



File Photo/Andrew Podrygula, Photo Editor
Under the leadership of Peter Odell '10 and fellow senior captains, men's tennis dominates.

Softball holds off Lord Jeffs in series triumph

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

gel '11 batted in two runs in apiece. In both the Friday game and the early Saturday game the Panthers scored first and continued to generate offense late in each game.

SOFTBALL

Friday, April 2	
Middlebury	4
Amherst	0
Saturday, April 3	
Middlebury	8
Amherst	2
Saturday, April 3	
Middlebury	0
Amherst	3

"Everyone was hitting and our defense was solid," said Maletsky. With an 8-2 advantage by the bottom of the seventh inning, pitcher Ali McAnaney's '11 fourth victory of the season was well in hand. McAnaney was the second Middlebury hurler to go the distance on the weekend, as she allowed just two earned runs on seven hits over seven innings.

In the series finale, Amherst was able to take advantage of Middlebury's fourth-inning defensive lapse, scoring three runs in the frame as the Panthers' bats fell silent for just the second time in 17 games. Constantin had the ball once again for the visitors, throwing six innings and allowing three runs on six hits.

The Lord Jeffs' star pitcher Alex Chang-

Graham tallied the complete-game shutout, salvaging the victory for the weekend's hosts. The Middlebury defense was once again solid, but without any run support, there was little the Panthers could do to try to sweep the series.

The season has been successful so far for the Panthers. Beating Amherst in a series "was huge for us," Maletsky said.

Earlier in the week, Middlebury split a two-game series with Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

The previous week, the NESCAC awarded pitcher of the week honors to McAnaney for her outstanding performances during the Panthers' 12-game spring break trip in Florida.

"I relied on the spin of my pitches to keep the batters from connecting on big hits," said McAnaney of her early success. The reality of the team's batting prowess was not lost on the star pitcher, as she also noted, "we're an incredible hitting team."

Finally, McAnaney touted the cooperative nature of her sport, stating modestly, "I could have never received the honor of pitcher of the week without the eight people playing behind me in those five games in Florida."

The Panthers will play two games at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute on April 6 before returning to Middlebury for a three-game series against Hamilton College the following weekend. The latter series will be the home opener for the Panthers, who will continue to play important NESCAC West division games in the ensuing three weeks.

Men's Ultimate Frisbee wins 2010 Yale Cup

By Kevin Carpenter, Sports Editor

Even jokers can dethrone kings sometimes, as the Middlebury men's ultimate frisbee team proved last weekend with its victory in the Yale Cup. The Pranksters knocked off seven teams on their way to the championship, including perennial powerhouses Tufts and Harvard.

"We were really well-balanced on the weekend," said Charlie Roberts '11.5. "We made sure to use our full roster which really helped on Sunday in terms of our stamina and keeping everyone fresh."

The team's "official" roster includes some daunting personalities, such as "The Honorable CrunkBox," "Wesley Snipes" and "Billy Berrou." Yet despite this roster of pseudonyms, the team roster really does include serious depth.

"A couple of our first-years really stepped up, particularly on defense," said Roberts. "We expanded our rotation this weekend so we integrated our top 13 players rather than just our top 10. It helped get everyone involved and helped with engagement from the sideline."

The Pranksters started their path to victory with convincing wins over Yale and Brandeis before moving on to Bentley.

Bentley proved an odd game given the team's unorthodox style. The Middlebury zone proved ineffectual against the quick give-and-go's of the Bentley squad, but ultimately, Middlebury's prowess and tact proved too much for the Bentley Falcons.

Roberts was especially proud of the team's 13-2 victory of UMass.

"There was no force pass from UMass defenders because our handlers were working them so hard," said Roberts. "When Dan Glatt '10 was on the field, the force was irrelevant."

The toughest match for the team was the semifinal game against the Tufts Jumbos. The Pranksters' hopes for Nationals were dashed by the Jumbos in Regionals last year. Middlebury had its first chance at redemption in the Terminus Tournament semifinals in Georgia. But, like in the 2009 Regionals, Middlebury got trounced by a wide margin of 4-13.

Tufts came into the game soft and were not ready for the Prankster fury.

"We found that the inches we need were everywhere around us," said Jake Herman '11, in paraphrasing "Any Given Sunday."

The 13-10 victory carried with it an instant gratification, but it also has postseason implications.

"It was an exciting opportunity to play some opponents in our region," said Roberts. "Getting that victory against Tufts was pretty important for seedings in Regionals."

After Tufts, Middlebury met the Crimson force of second-ranked Harvard in the finals. Harvard has had a successful season thus far, having beaten last year's national champion, Carleton College, earlier this season. This fact failed to faze the Pranksters.

"Jon Cox '11 played lights-out against Harvard," said Herman. "And when Glatt and Joe MacDonald '10 were playing together it was like watching Jean Claude Van Damme and Dennis Rodman reunited on the silver screen, finally."

The titanic MacDonald only played in two games during the tournament but he made his presence known in the finals.

"Joe was hopped up on ibuprofen and 'five-hour energy' for the games," said Roberts. "He couldn't feel anything but a thirst for victory."

The game was not without its obstacles, though. Herman notes that "the Harvard coach was wearing a bucket hat and designer jeans. It was pretty distracting."

Luckily, the Pranksters overcame the distractions and locked up the Yale Cup and the spoils that went along with it. The team was awarded a chocolate Easter bunny and a bottle of Manishevitz for its efforts.

The Middlebury Great Eight

Rank	3/18	Team	Carpenter's Comments
1	3	Men's tennis (9-2)	Top-ranked in the nation often equates to top-ranked in the 'Great Eight,' believe it or not.
2	6	Women's track & field	The women put out a strong performance at the home meet.
3	—	Softball (11-6)	This might be the highest rank I've ever awarded to softball. Keep it up.
4	—	Men's track & field	Addison, I realize you're very fast and we need your speed back for intramural soccer. Come back?
5	—	Baseball (4-7)	If you guys sweep a series this year, I will put you at #1 for the week. Challenge starts now.
6	7	Women's lacrosse (4-3)	One-goal loss to Colby. Heartbreaking.
7	5	Men's lacrosse (4-2)	(See above.)
8	—	Ski patrol	I hear they have a banquet this week. Alec and Lukas, you made it into the 'Great Eight.' Congrats.

Andrew Podrygula/Photo Editor
Men's tennis tops the national rankings this week after posting a 9-2 record and recently knocking off former top-seeded UC-Santa Cruz over break.



Andrew Podrygula, Photo Editor

Michaela Colbert '13 and the rest of the Panthers faced a resilient Colby squad as they fell to the Mules in an overtime thriller at Kohn Field.

Pitching propels softball to success

By Addi DiSesa
STAFF WRITER

The Middlebury College softball team beat Amherst in two of three games this weekend in Amherst, Mass., improving the Panthers' record to 11-6 overall and 2-1 in the NESCAC West division. With the series loss, the Lord Jeffs fall to 9-7 overall and 1-2 in the division. The teams faced off once on Friday afternoon and twice on Saturday with the Panthers winning all but the finale.

On Friday, Geena Constantin '11 pitched a complete game shutout for the Panthers, while allowing just two hits and walking two, for her fourth victory against just two losses on the young season.

The 4-0 Middlebury victory

was indicative of the team's style up to this point in the season. The Panthers scored four or more runs for the eighth and ninth times this year with the weekend wins. Going into the season, co-captains Kristin Maletsky '10.5 and Sophie Dorot '10 anticipated success at the plate. In the Friday victory, Constantin also connected three times, batting 1.000 in a game largely marked by her shutout performance from the circle.

The first of the two Saturday games also went the Panthers' way. Once again, the visiting team's bats came alive, as both shortstop Jessa Hoffman '13 and centerfielder Nellie Wood '11 had three hits each. Hoffman and first baseman Megan Mar-

SEE SOFTBALL, PAGE 23



Geena Constantin '11 leads the Panthers to victory with superb pitching. File Photo

Lacrosse suffers loss in OT thriller

By Julia Ireland
STAFF WRITER

Middlebury dropped a road game to Babson College on April Fool's Day, finishing just two goals behind in a 15-13 score. Senior co-Captain Dana Heritage '10 ended the game with four goals and one assist, while first-year Michaela Colbert '13 and sophomore Steph Gill '12 each added three goals.

However, the impressive scoring efforts by some of the Panthers proved insufficient to best the Babson Beavers, who gained momentum and held possession for most of the second-half.

On Saturday, eighth-ranked Middlebury took the field again to take on the seventh-ranked Colby Mules at home on Kohn Field. In recent years, Middlebury has developed an intense rivalry with Colby. In the last five meetings

between the two teams, Colby has come out on top four times. Last year, however, Middlebury had the chance to avenge a NESCAC semifinal loss to Colby in the NCAA Regional Final and pulled away with the win.

Though Middlebury's Sally Ryan '11 struck first, putting Middlebury ahead 1-0, Colby appeared to control the first half. The Mules scored four straight goals to arrive at halftime with a 4-2 lead.

"We got off to a slow start," said junior Chase Delano '11, who was responsible for Middlebury's other goal in the first half. "Colby came on strong right away and we realized we were going to have to pick it up if we wanted to compete."

Colby appeared to be in control of the second half as well, scoring three goals to Middle-

bury's one to take a 7-3 lead with under 25 minutes remaining. However, Middlebury rallied and generated a four-goal run to tie the game at seven.

Ryan set the streak in motion, tallying twice. Delano followed suit, converting a free position with a bounce shot to beat Colby's Sarah Warnke in net. First-year Michaela Colbert '13 notched the tying goal at 19:40.

Colby took an unnerving two-goal lead with just over three minutes to go, but Middlebury responded once again. Delano netted another free position shot to bring the Panthers within one goal of the Mules.

With under two minutes remaining, Colbert won control of the draw and scored another tying goal with just 1:19 left in

SEE PANTHERS, PAGE 22

Baseball drops series 2-1 to strong NESCAC competitor

By Dillon Hupp
STAFF WRITER

The Middlebury College baseball team took one of three from Wesleyan last weekend in Connecticut, dropping its record to 4-7 on the season after starting 3-5 in Arizona over spring break. The Cardinals won the first two contests of the series by scores of 7-6 and 10-2 before the Panthers took the final outing 7-2.

"There have been times when this team looks like it can beat anyone in the NESCAC but we need to find a way to start playing that way every game," said shortstop Will Baine '12.

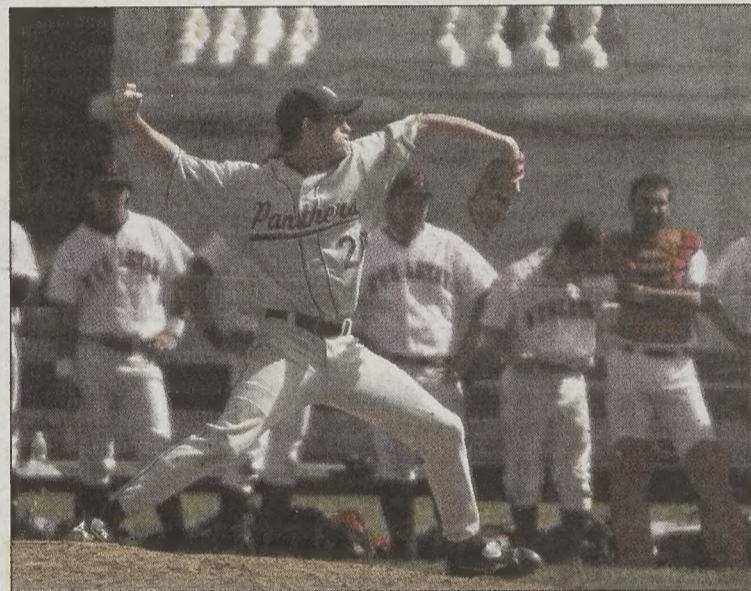
Third baseman Donnie McKillop '11 expressed the same sentiment, saying "overall we have shown great potential to be a good team," but adding that the Panthers "need to learn how to finish a team when we have the opportunity."

McKillop's concerns about the team's finishing ability proved all too true in game one of the series, when the Panthers jumped out to 6-2 lead after a Joey Liberator '11 home run in the fourth inning, but could not hold on for the victory as Wesleyan scored five runs in the next three innings.

"The key to our future success will be getting all parts of our game working for nine innings," said McKillop, who had three RBIs in the first game.

The second game of the series, the first of a Saturday doubleheader, was tight early on but turned into a rout as Wesleyan pulled away in the middle innings. Tri-captains McKillop and Danny Seymour '10 both tallied RBIs for Middlebury in the third inning, tying the score at two, but the Cardinals struck back in the fourth with six runs to gain an 8-2 advantage that they would not relinquish, eventually winning 10-2.

The Panthers finally notched a victory in game three of the series, their fourth of the season and second



Courtesy/Jeff Patterson

The Panthers displayed a gritty performance this past Sunday against Wesleyan and ended up with a split of the doubleheader.

in NESCAC play (Middlebury went 1-2 versus Williams in a three-game series played over spring break). Stellar pitching from Matt Lowes '10, who allowed only two earned runs and struck out three in a complete-

series leaves us in a tough hole and makes our series against Amherst in two weeks huge," said Baine, adding, "we are young and getting better."

The Panthers have been getting contributions from players all over the depth chart, and at times have featured as many as four first-years in their lineup. McKillop leads all hitters in batting average, hitting .400 through the first 11 games of the season. He is followed by first-year Joe Conway '13, who is hitting .325. Lowes and Nick Angstman '11 have ERAs of 3.74 and 3.72, respectively, and have combined for all of the Panthers' four wins this season.

Middlebury plays Castleton State in its home opener this week before a weekend series with Bowdoin, who just took two of three from fourth-ranked Trinity.

"Bowdoin should be a really good test for us this weekend," said Baine.

The Panthers have lost two of their conference games by one run and look to further improve their consistency as they continue to grow

BASEBALL

Friday, April 2

Middlebury	6
Wesleyan	7

Saturday, April 3

Middlebury	2
Wesleyan	10

Saturday, April 3

Middlebury	7
Wesleyan	2

game effort, and two RBIs apiece from sophomores Zach Roeder '12 and Matt Wassel '12 propelled the Panthers to a convincing win over the Cardinals.

Middlebury tallied runs in six of nine innings, which characterized the kind of "consistent pressure with no let-up" that McKillop said was crucial to the team's future success.

"Winning only one game in the

this week in sports

Men's Ultimate

The men won the Yale Cup and solidified their place in national rankings, page 22.



games to watch

Men's lacrosse vs. Amherst, April 7 at 4:30 p.m.
Baseball vs. Castleton St., April 6 at 3:30 p.m.



Track and Field

Both the men and women posted great times in the home meet this past weekend, page 21.